

2015 Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office in the News

August 7, 2015: WLFI-TV

Former McCutcheon teacher sentenced for child seduction

Kayla Sullivan

LAFAYETTE (WLFI) – Former McCutcheon High School teacher, Jakob Robinson, has been sentenced to five years in the Department of Corrections for charges involving a 16-year-old student.

Thirty-eight-year old Jakob Robinson is expected to serve five years in the Department of Corrections and three years of supervised probation.

Prosecutors said while the relationship began in October of last year, the two met when the girl was a freshman in Robinson's gym class.

Robinson admitted to having multiple sexual relations with the 16-year-old student over a three-month period. But prosecutors say he had been grooming her for more than two years.

He admitted on the stand that he took the victim out of school to be with her at his parents house, bought her gifts, and had sexual intercourse with her while his children and parents were in the house.

Robinson claims to suffer from a drinking problem. He said his addiction, depression and stress from his divorce played a factor in his poor-decision making. However, when the prosecutor asked him if he had been drinking when he had sexual relations with the victim, he said no.

The judge said Robinson's failure to follow the court's no contact orders with both his family and the victim were factors in his sentencing as well as the fact the victim was, "old enough to be his daughter."

Robinson's Attorney Brian Dekker says Robinson plans to appeal the judge's sentence by hiring a private attorney.

"First off, we need to see if his family can afford it. You've got to pay for the appeal, the transcripts, the attorney — so depending on their financial necessities, they made need an appointed counsel," said Dekker.

The Tippecanoe School Corporation fired Robinson shortly after his arrest in January.

On June 25, a judge heard Robinson enter a guilty plea. He pleaded guilty to all five counts of child seduction.

August 7, 2015: TCPSN

Lindsay J. McCoy pled guilty today to Conspiracy to Deal Methamphetamine (Lev 5 Fel), Dealing Methamphetamine (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Lev 6 Fel), Illegal Drug Lab (Lev 6 Fel), Possession of Synthetic Drug (A Misd), and Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd) in Tippecanoe County. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for September 4, 2015 at 2:30 pm.

August 7, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Ex-teacher sentenced for seducing student

A former McCutcheon High School teacher who admitted he seduced a student last fall into a three-month sexual relationship was sentenced Friday to prison, but the legal ramifications of his crimes are far from settled.

Jake Robinson, 38, pleaded guilty in June, without the benefit of a plea agreement, to all five felony counts of child seduction.

The mother of his 16-year-old victim responded last month by filing a lawsuit against Tippecanoe School Corp., accusing officials of failing to protect her daughter from Robinson's advances.

The suit, which is pending in federal court, accuses McCutcheon administrators of failing to take seriously the concerns raised at least three times by the victim's mother and once by an unnamed person who reportedly saw Robinson in public with the victim.

Administrators failed to intervene Dec. 18, when they saw Robinson leave school grounds during the middle of the school day, followed him and watched as he took the victim into his home, the suit alleges.

In a formal response filed Tuesday, attorneys for the district admitted that administrators saw Robinson leave with the victim that day, but they denied the related allegations.

Officials fostered an environment in which flirtation and inappropriate touching between students and teachers were deemed acceptable, paving the way for sex discrimination against her daughter, the mother's suit alleges.

The school corporation's response denies most of the suit's allegations and argues that the district should not have to pay civil damages.

On the criminal side, Robinson faced one to six years for each of the five felonies to which he pleaded guilty.

Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 Judge Steven Meyer settled on a five-year prison term, followed by three years of supervised probation, despite opposition from defense attorney Brian Dekker.

"Judge, don't send him to prison," Dekker said. "This is a suspendable sentence."

Robinson had no criminal history prior to his arrest, and the circumstances of his crimes are unlikely to reoccur, Dekker argued.

"He was in a terrible place in his life when this happened, and it just keeps going down hill," he said, suggesting that now could be the time for his client to begin climbing again after sinking to the lowest point of his life.

Robinson testified that he had thought of himself as four things: teacher, husband, coach and father.

August 7, 2015: TCPSN

Jerome Car-Tez McCray, 32, of Marion, IN was charged today with Criminal Confinement Resulting in Bodily Injury (Lev 5 Fel), Intimidation (Lev 6 Fel), Residential Entry (Lev 6 Fel), Battery (A Misd), and Invasion of Privacy (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

August 7, 2015: TCPSN

Sentencing on State v. Robinson, 79D02-1503-F5-16: On August 7, 2015, the Defendant Jakob Robinson pled guilty to five (5) counts of Child Seduction (Lev 5 Fel). The Court ordered a 4 year sentence on all 5 counts. The Court ordered count 1 and count 2 run consecutively, and counts 3-5 run concurrently with count 2. The court sentenced the Defendant to 8 years in the Department of Corrections. The Court ordered 5 years executed in the Department of Corrections, and 3 years suspended on probation. No plea agreement was made in this case.

August 7, 2015: TCPSN

Robert Jacob Thigpen pled guilty today to three (3) counts Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 3 Fel) in Tippecanoe County. The plea agreement called for an initial executed sentence of 15-27 years in DOC. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for September 28, 2015 at 11:00 am.

August 6, 2015: WLFI-TV

Tip leads police to double homicide suspect

Samantha Thieke

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — Just hours after the murder of two Lafayette men Tuesday morning, Lafayette police arrested a man for driving while intoxicated and auto theft — only to discover he's the man wanted in connection to the double homicide.

"I'm glad they were caught, whoever did it, and I want our neighborhood back," said Perrine Street resident Vicci Steele.

After more than three decades of living on Lafayette's Perrine Street, Steele said the arrest of 19-year-old Delphi resident Jacob Guffey in connection with Tuesday's double homicide is a relief.

But Steele said the shock of the murders of 36-year-old Aaron Hunter Jr. and 46-year-old Terry Smith Jr. lingers in the neighborhood — once a nice, quiet place to live, she said.

"It's sad," said Steele. "It's very sad that times have changed so much."

Guffey was arrested Tuesday afternoon after police received a tip about a suspicious vehicle in an intersection on Lafayette's east side. He was arrested and preliminarily charged with public intoxication and auto theft after being found slumped over in the stolen vehicle.

Lafayette Police Lt. Jim Taul said it was at that time police realized Guffey matched the description of a person of interest in Tuesday's double homicide.

"I'm satisfied the public can relax a little bit," said Taul. "There's not a murderer running the streets of Lafayette."

On Thursday morning, Guffey was preliminarily charged with two counts of murder, armed robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery in connection to the double homicide.

As police work to wrap up the investigation, Taul said they have the public to thank for catching the murder suspect less than 12 hours after the crime.

"The public may think they may be calling in a suspicious person or a suspicious vehicle, but that may ultimately lead to solving a double homicide," said Taul.

Guffey is no stranger to the law. He was arrested at the end of July for multiple drug charges, including possession of methamphetamine.

Guffey was arraigned on those charges in the Tippecanoe County Court Thursday.

Formal charges have not yet been filed for the other charges Guffey faces, including the two counts of murder.

Prosecutors are expected to file formal charges as early as Friday afternoon.

Guffey is currently being held without bond in the Tippecanoe County Jail.

Lafayette man charged with felony DWI

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Prosecutors filed two felony and two misdemeanor operating while intoxicated charges Thursday against Thomas Dale Lindstrand, accusing him of driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.217 percent on April 2.

Police stopped Lindstrand, 44, of Lafayette after he disregarded a stoplight on Fourth Street, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Lindstrand failed field sobriety tests and later tested more than twice the legal limit, according to the affidavit.

August 6, 2015: TCPSN

Thomas Dale Lindstrand, 44, was charged today with Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated While Having a Prior Conviction for Operating While Intoxicated Resulting in Death (Lev 5 Fel), Operating a Vehicle While Having an Alcohol Concentration of at least .15 Gram of Alcohol While Having a Prior Conviction for Operating While Intoxicated Resulting in Death (Lev 5 Fel), Operating a Vehicle While Having an Alcohol Concentration of at Least .15 Gram of Alcohol (A Misd), and Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

August 5, 2015: WLFI-TV

Four face heroin charges

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Four people face criminal charges for dealing heroin.

Cordarow Davis, Jarmone Davis, Crisy Jones and Lashawn Griffin were taken into custody last week at a home on Sickie Court, near McCarty Lane and Creasy Lane.

Police said they found more than 16 grams of heroin and more than \$8,000. A 4-year-old boy who was also at the home was given to a family member.

According to court documents, police also seized a Chevy Camaro and another \$20,000 at a storage unit rented by Davis.

Each person faces two felonies, including dealing a narcotic.

August 5, 2015: TCPSN

Jarmone Davis, 30, Cordarow Davis, 28, LaShawn Griffin, 19, and Crisy Jones, 22, were charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 2 Fel), and Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 2 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

August 5, 2015: TCPSN

Bianca Cartagena, 22, of Merrillville, IN has been charged with Fraud on a Financial Institution (Lev 5 Fel), and Attempted Theft (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

August 3, 2015: WLFI-TV

Man accused of stealing, hiding out in the Celery Bog is charged

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Tippecanoe County man faces charges after authorities say he stole from Wal-Mart and then tried to hide in the Celery Bog.

Rusty Taylor, 45, faces several felonies including theft and carrying a handgun without a license while having a prior felony conviction.

Officers were called to the West Lafayette Wal-Mart for a report of shoplifting Thursday evening. According to court documents, Taylor tried to steal a cart full of items including a pellet gun, a gun scope and sunglasses.

When an employee tried to take him to the lost prevention office, he took off and hid in the Celery Bog.

Later that night, the woman Taylor was living with reported that her car was stolen. Taylor later came out from hiding and tried to get into the vehicle. That's when police took him into custody.

Taylor faces six charges including four felonies.

July 29, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Inmate pleads guilty to escape, robbery, battery

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Marcus Bramlett pleaded guilty Wednesday to felony charges of robbery, escape, battery on a police officer and disarming a law enforcement officer from his May 15 escape.

Additionally, he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement from a May 12 incident in which he fled from a Lafayette police officer.

The plea agreement was taken under advisement and will be formally accepted on Sept. 1 when Bramlett is sentenced in Tippecanoe Circuit Court.

Bramlett, 25, faces between three and 16 years in prison for the robbery charge. On the escape charge, he faces between two and 12 years in prison. For the battery on a police officer and disarming a law enforcement officer, he faces between one and six years in prison. The plea agreement leaves the sentence lengths up to the court's discretion.

The plea agreement requires a two-day sentence for the misdemeanor resisting law enforcement charge from May 12.

Bramlett, who was in jail for the May 12 resisting charge, was taken to the hospital for medical treatment on May 15, when he managed to get out of his restraints on the drive back to Tippecanoe County Jail, police said. He assaulted Tippecanoe County sheriff's Deputy Jennifer Thompson, going for her sidearm as she was driving.

He then stole her squad car, complete with firearms.

He admitted in court Wednesday that the sidearm's magazine had been dropped from the gun during the struggle.

Thompson managed to stop the car and get out of it, despite being punched several times in the face, according to the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office. She fired one round — the chambered round from the otherwise empty sidearm — as Bramlett sped away in her patrol car. A sheriff's review board later determined her response was appropriate.

Bramlett drove to rural Warren County, where the car got stuck, police said.

Warren County prosecutors accuse Bramlett of walking to a nearby house and robbing a woman at gunpoint, using the rifle from the police car. Bramlett is suspected of taking the woman's car to Lafayette, where police said he wrecked it early May 16 on Holly drive.

By the end of the day May 16, police coaxed him out of a house in the 1000 block of South Third Street where he'd holed up with a friend.

In Tippecanoe County, Bramlett faced eight charges from the May 15 escape, including robbery resulting in bodily injury, battery resulting in bodily injury, escape, battery resulting in bodily injury to a public safety officer and disarming a law enforcement officer.

July 29, 2015: WLFITV

Marcus Bramlett pleads guilty to five charges

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — The man accused of stealing a Tippecanoe County Sheriff's deputy's squad car and sparking a two-county manhunt has pleaded guilty.

Marcus Bramlett, 25, pleaded guilty Wednesday four felonies and one misdemeanor.

On May 15, Deputy Jennifer Thompson was transporting Bramlett from Franciscan St. Elizabeth East Hospital to the Tippecanoe County Jail when he somehow freed one of his hands from the handcuffs, attacked Thompson, and took control of her marked car.

As Bramlett drove off, Thompson fired one round at the vehicle. She was later cleared by both an internal investigation and a shooting board.

The deputy's car was found abandoned the next morning near Attica, in Warren County. That's where Bramlett is accused of breaking into a home and stealing another car.

Bramlett returned to Lafayette, where he barricaded himself in a home on S. Third Street.

Lafayette SWAT were called to the scene. More than 24-hours after his escape, Bramlett surrendered peacefully.

In court Wednesday, Bramlett admitted to attacking Deputy Thompson and stealing her squad car. He pleaded guilty to robbery, escape, battery, and disarming law enforcement.

He also pleaded guilty to resisting law enforcement for a May 12 incident — the reason why he was originally in custody.

He still faces charges in Warren County including burglary with a deadly weapon, robbery and unlawful possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon.

Bramlett is scheduled to be sentenced in Tippecanoe County on Sept. 1.

July 28, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette woman sentenced for causing burns to baby



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette woman faces prison time after admitting she caused serious injuries to her 6-week-old baby.

Kristin Wesley, 26, was sentenced Monday after pleading guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury.

Police were called to her home in June of 2014, where they found the baby so badly burned his skin was peeling off. The baby was flown to Riley Children's Hospital, where doctors determined he had second degree burns on 20 percent of his body.

Wesley said she does not remember how the baby was injured, but doctors say the injuries are consistent with a pouring burn pattern.

She was sentenced to 15 years behind bars, with three years suspended.

July 27, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Woman charged after infant left in parked car

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A woman who left four young children unattended at home while she searched for her boyfriend in the wee hours of the morning was charged Friday with felony neglect of a dependent.

Angela Fleming, 24, entered another woman's apartment without permission about 4 a.m. July 3 and refused to leave, according to a probable cause affidavit.

When police arrived, Fleming told them she'd left the children — all of whom were 6 or younger — in bed at her Lafayette home at least 5.6 miles away, with no supervision and no telephone access, the affidavit states.

Fleming was arrested then released on \$500 cash bond that day.

An initial hearing on the charge, which carries a possible penalty of six to 30 months, has yet to be scheduled.

July 27, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

10-year prison sentence for mother who burned baby

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Kristin Wesley's 14-month-old son has almost always known pain in his short life because his mother severely burned him when he was just 7 weeks old.

Wesley, 26, of Lafayette, will spend the next 10 years in prison for neglect of a dependent and another two years on community corrections. An additional three years of her 15-year sentence were suspended.

"You were entrusted with a sacred duty to watch over that little boy, and you broke that trust," Tippecanoe Superior 2 Judge Steve Meyer said as he pronounced sentence for Wesley's neglect on June 20, 2014.

The baby suffered second-degree burns over the lower half of his body, including his bottom and private area, and he suffered burns on his side and an elbow, according to photos. Testimony Monday indicated that the infant nearly died from the infection caused by the burns.

No evidence was presented to explain how the boy was burned.

Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor Shay Hughes argued for a 20-year sentence, citing the boy's embarrassment when he gets older and takes off his shirt at a water park, revealing his scars.

"The only explanation," Hughes said, "is that his mother was intoxicated."

Wesley admitted she was high on prescription drugs and drinking the night her son was injured. Court records presented at sentencing indicated Wesley has a long history of abusing prescription and illegal drugs, as well as alcohol, even after the incident that nearly killed her son.

Wesley admitted to using marijuana, heroin, methamphetamine and cocaine, as well as abusing prescription drugs.

"It wasn't long enough," Ashley Campbell, the child's stepmother, said of Wesley's sentence.

"His injuries, he's going to have to deal with his entire life," she said. "He wears a (compression) suit 23 hours a day. He gets it off long enough to bathe."

But this is normal life for the boy, because he's too young to know anything different.

"He's a very happy baby, considering everything he's been through," Campbell said. "He's always smiling and giggling."

As he gets older, however, he'll notice he's different from other children because of the scars. Campbell said she'll offer him words of encouragement.

"It's not his fault," Campbell said after Monday's hearing.

Wesley's older child, a 3-year-old daughter, lives with her father and stepmother, Robyn Furr, who also attended the hearing.

Furr and Campbell plan to petition to terminate Wesley's parental rights.

Wesley spoke briefly during the hearing, admitting it was her job as the boy's mother to protect him, and she failed.

"Not only did I fail him, I failed my daughter," Wesley said.

July 23, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man convicted in escort-ad armed robbery

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Rodney Lloyd was convicted Wednesday for his role in the armed robbery of a Purdue University student who met a Lafayette woman online last fall and paid her to keep him company.

The victim told police he had just forked over \$100 when the woman, later identified as Larissa Catron, ordered him to leave.

When the student questioned why he couldn't stay, multiple men entered the bedroom, and one of them held a gun to the victim's head, according to a probable cause affidavit.

A jury convicted Lloyd, 21, on one count of conspiracy to commit armed robbery with a deadly weapon, a felony punishable by three to 16 years. He's scheduled for sentencing Aug. 21.

Catron, 20, pleaded guilty in June to armed robbery with a deadly weapon. She, too, faces three to 16 years. Her sentencing was postponed and had yet to be rescheduled as of Thursday afternoon.

A third defendant, 19-year-old Quenton Hansen, is awaiting trial.

July 23, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Ousted music pastor released on bond on Thursday

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Ousted Calvary Baptist Church music pastor Craig Burden posted bond Thursday and was released from the Tippecanoe County Jail at 10:45 a.m.

And while Thursday might be Burden's first breath of fresh air, it also brought more bad news for him. His wife filed in Tippecanoe Superior 1 to dissolve their marriage.

Prosecutors charged Burden last week with attempted child exploitation, child pornography and voyeurism. His bond was set at \$1,750 cash and a \$17,500 surety, for which he — or someone on his behalf — had to put up 10 percent for the surety bond.

All totaled, Burden — or his benefactor — made a cash outlay of \$3,500 to secure Burden's release. At a hearing on July 13, Burden told Criminal Magistrate Dan Moore he did not have money to post bond or to hire an attorney.

Burden, 28, of West Lafayette, was ordered during his initial hearing last week to surrender his passport if he is released on bond. Additionally, he was ordered not to have contact with two juveniles identified in court by their initials. He also is barred from having any unsupervised contact with anyone younger than 18.

At a hearing July 13, Burden was barred from contacting his wife and children.

Burden's wife called police on July 9 after she found what she believed to be child pornography on her husband's computer. He was arrested July 10, and Calvary Baptist Church fired Burden later that day.

Burden is accused of having cellphone video he allegedly made of a juvenile in undergarments and sitting on the side of a bathtub, according to the probable cause affidavit. Tippecanoe County Sheriff Barry Richard said last week that the video Burden shot was not taken at the church.

Burden's computer also contained images of females believed to be younger than 18, as well as an adult male engaging in sex with a prepubescent female, according to the affidavit.

July 23, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

O Cheating husband admits torching in-laws' house

Frankfort man reportedly caught snorting cocaine inside Biltmore Tap Room admits to two sets of felony charges, including arson



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Tyler Williams admitted Wednesday that he poured gasoline last summer on a Lafayette home belonging to his wife's parents, then attempted to set the house on fire while five people, including children, were inside.

The 26-year-old Frankfort man, who reportedly told officers he'd been kicked out of the house after his wife caught him cheating on her, took a plea deal that calls for a total sentence of 16 to 50 years.

Williams told Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 Judge Steven Meyer that he made the decision to torch his in-laws' home, endangering their lives, while under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

"I'm not a violent person by any means," he said, noting that he didn't intend to harm anyone.

Victims seated in the courtroom Wednesday said they would take their turn to address the court during sentencing, which is scheduled for 11 a.m. Aug. 24.

Witnesses told Lafayette police that Williams had been drinking at Biltmore Tap Room late June 11, 2014, when he left in a taxi, purchased a can and fuel from a gas station and stopped by his in-laws' home in the 1800 block of North 15th Street, according to a probable cause affidavit.

When he returned to the bar 30 to 45 minutes later, he reportedly looked at the bartender and said, "burnt that b---'s house down," the affidavit states.

Lafayette police said Williams was snorting cocaine off a table at the bar when they caught up with him early June 12, 2014.

As he was being escorted to Tippecanoe County Jail, Williams reportedly fought officers and was shocked with a stun gun, according to court documents.

Williams pleaded guilty Wednesday to two sets of charges. He faces 3 1/2 to 10 1/2 years for felony possession of cocaine as a habitual substance offender, and 16 to 50 years for arson as a habitual offender.

Williams will serve both sentences simultaneously, if the judge accepts the plea agreement.

July 22, 2015: WLFITV

Lloyd convicted of involvement in escort-ad robbery



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man faces up to 16 years in the Department of Corrections after being convicted of robbing a man who answered an online escort ad.

Rodney Lloyd, 21, was convicted Wednesday of robbery, confinement and theft for his involvement in the incident that occurred in October 2014.

Investigators say Lloyd and another man robbed the victim after he paid 20-year-old Larissa Catron \$100 for companionship and then told him to leave.

When the man questioned why he had to leave, someone held a gun to his head. The others took the man's cash, phone and ransacked his car.

Lloyd will be sentenced on Aug. 21.

Catron has already pleaded guilty for her involvement in the case.

July 22, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Father's bond revoked in battered baby case

After violating a court order more than 15 times, a father accused of battering his baby daughter has his bond revoked.

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Bail was revoked Wednesday for a father accused of battering his 18-month-old daughter, who sustained a life-threatening brain injury while in his care.

Timothy Grissom, who faces three felony charges punishable by up to 16 years apiece, had bonded out of jail about a week after his arrest in December.

But Tippecanoe County Magistrate Judge Dan Moore determined Wednesday that the 23-year-old Lebanon resident should be taken back into custody and held without bond for repeatedly violating a no contact order.

The victim's mother testified that Grissom, her former lover, had called her more than 15 times, and the two met face-to-face on some occasions in a grocery store parking lot.

Each time, he apologized and said he still loves her, she said.

Deputy Prosecutor Emily Orsinger argued that locking Grissom up would be the only way to prevent him from exerting undue influence over the victim's mother.

"She is a crucial witness in the state's case," Orsinger said, noting that Grissom had told the woman she would lose custody of her kids if she reported his violations.

A pending recommendation from the Department of Child Services calls for a termination of parental rights for both Grissom and the victim's mother, Orsinger added.

Grissom faces felony charges of neglect, aggravated battery and battery resulting in serious bodily injury to a victim younger than 14, plus two misdemeanor drug charges.

A jury trial is currently scheduled to begin Sept. 1 in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1.

July 21, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Florida woman faces five charges

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Brianna Alyce Pettinato faces five charges in Tippecanoe County, far from her home in Sunrise, Florida.

Pettinato, 27, was arrested July 14 after Indiana State Police responded to a report of a crash on Interstate 65, south of Indiana 38. She and two men were standing outside of the car when police arrived.

The two men took off running, starting a manhunt that lasted for about 90 minutes. While one of the men was later arrested, the other remains at large.

Pettinato, police said, gave them a bogus name when they arrested her, for which she is charged with false informing, a misdemeanor.

Police said Pettinato admitted to having methamphetamine in her purse, which police found. For that, she is charged with a felony of possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia.

After troopers put Pettinato into a squad car, she unfastened her seat belt and tried to run away, police said. Prosecutors charged her with felony escape.

Pettinato remains incarcerated at the Tippecanoe County Jail in lieu of \$15,000 bond

July 21, 2015: WLFITV

I-65 escape suspect faces formal charges

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A woman who fled from police custody earlier this month now faces felony charges.

Twenty-seven-year-old Brianna Pettinato, of Sunrise, Florida, was arrested after police responded to a crash on Interstate 65 near Dayton on July 14. Troopers said they found methamphetamine and syringes inside the vehicle.

While police searched the car, two men who were with Pettinato took off running. Hours later, officers located one suspect hiding under a railroad underpass. The other man is still wanted by authorities.

Back at the crash scene, Pettinato was handcuffed and placed into the back of a patrol car. But she was somehow able to unbuckle her seat belt and open the car door. Police said she took off running, but was apprehended and taken into custody.

Pettinato faces felony charges including escape and possession of methamphetamine.

July 21, 2015: WLFITV

Boda Wu sentenced to time served, returning to China



Kelly Roberts

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — A former Purdue student who attacked another student on campus and tried to strangle her with a phone cord will be released from jail Tuesday.

Earlier this month Boda Wu pleaded guilty but mentally ill to battery by means of a deadly weapon. That plea deal was accepted by Tippecanoe Circuit Court Judge Tom Busch Tuesday.

As part of the deal, Wu was sentenced to time served which Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said is 366 days. He's also ordered to return to his home country of China. A flight itinerary was entered as evidence during Tuesday's sentencing hearing. It stated Wu will be flying from Chicago O'Hare International Airport to China Wednesday morning.

Judge Busch said if Wu does not get on the plane, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will be notified and he will be deported.

Judge Busch said he thinks the time Wu has served in the Tippecanoe County Jail and area hospitals for psychiatric evaluations fit the crime.

The plea stems from a 2014 incident when Wu attacked a female student and wrapped a phone cord around her neck. She managed to scream and get untangled from the cord. According to court documents, that's when Wu grabbed her throat with both hands. Witnesses got hold of Wu and held him down until police arrived.

At the hearing, Purdue police gave Wu's passport and visa back to him which were taken away while he was in custody. He was also served a letter saying he is never allowed back on Purdue's campus.

Four other charges were dismissed when the plea deal was accepted.

July 20, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Woman charged after infant left in parked car

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A woman accused of leaving an infant unattended in a parked car outside Wal-Mart on Veterans Memorial Parkway in Lafayette was charged Friday with felony neglect of a dependent.

Police responded to the store parking lot June 3, when a passer-by reported that she heard a baby crying inside the parked vehicle for about 20 minutes.

Officer Nathan Lamar removed the child, noting that the baby's skin was warm to the touch with clothes dampened by sweat on a day when the exterior temperature was 77 degrees Fahrenheit, according to a probable cause affidavit.

The child was taken to St. Elizabeth East hospital for treatment.

Nearly an hour after the passer-by called police, 23-year-old Kiya Harris of Lafayette exited the store with others and began to leave in the vehicle from which the infant had been rescued.

Lamar stopped them to notify Harris that the baby had been taken to the hospital, the affidavit states.

Harris, who was arrested that day, faces six to 30 months if convicted.

July 17, 2015: WLFITV

Prosecutors get extension to file charges on man involved in standoff

Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — The man arrested in Thursday's SWAT Team standoff may have to wait a few more days to be formally charged.

Robert Pearson II is being held on preliminary charges of criminal recklessness and intimidation. On Friday, prosecutors asked for more time to file formal charges. The deadline has been extended to Wednesday by 2 p.m.

A judge set Pearson's bond at \$1,000 cash and \$10,000 surety. But the judge told Pearson that if he posts bail, firearms are prohibited during that time.

Police said Pearson was armed with a handgun during Thursday's four-hour standoff at a home on the 1200 block of Railroad Street.

Investigators said it all started when Pearson shot at someone twice in the home. But the individual wasn't injured and able to get out of the home.

July 17, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Food stamps fraudster sentenced to probation



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Tonia Babb was sentenced Friday to four years of probation after she pleaded guilty to defrauding the government of more than \$16,500 in public assistance.

Babb, 38, of Logansport completed paperwork and participated in interviews, telling officials that she was separated from her husband and lived with her two children in Lafayette and West Lafayette, without any source of income, for nearly two years, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Investigators determined, however, that she continued to live with her husband, Richard Lee Babb Jr., but failed to disclose his income, as required on applications for food stamps, Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, known as TANF, court documents state.

Tonia Babb collected more than \$11,300 in food stamp benefits, \$5,000 from Medicaid and \$200 in TANF, according to the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

She's been ordered to pay back \$200 per month, which will take her nearly seven years if she finishes on time.

Tonia and Richard Baab filed a joint tax return as a married couple with the Internal Revenue Service during their purported period of separation, and Richard Baab's residence was listed on multiple documents as the same as that of his wife, court documents state.

July 17, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Spanking injuries trigger felony charge

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

One felony charge was filed Friday against a Lafayette man accused of spanking a child in a manner that left behind significant bruising to the victim's buttocks, legs and waist.

Edward Coates, 42, faces one count of battery on a child younger than 14, a felony punishable by six to 30 months.

Coates admitted to Lafayette police June 23 that he had spanked the victim on two recent occasions, causing the injuries officers observed, according to a probable cause affidavit.

A juvenile witness told authorities that Coates slammed the victim into a table and spanked him or her, inflicting bruises with his hand and a belt, the affidavit states.

Coates reportedly apologized but struck the victim on a second occasion, June 18.

He has not been arrested, according to jail records.

July 15, 2015: WLFITV

West Lafayette man charged in child exploitation

Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Formal charges have been filed against the former worship leader of a West Lafayette church, and more details are coming to light about the acts that landed the former worship leader behind bars.

Twenty-eight-year-old Craig Burden of West Lafayette was charged Wednesday with three felonies — possession of child pornography, voyeurism and attempted child exploitation.

As News 18 previously reported, Burden was arrested Friday for voyeurism and sexual gratification with a victim less than 14 years of age. He was fired from his position as a worship leader at Calvary Baptist Church in West Lafayette the same day.

According to court documents, his wife turned Burden in to authorities after viewing what she described as child pornography on his computer while he was away from home. Police also found cellphone video taken from underneath a bathroom door inside a Tippecanoe County home on Burden's computer.

Authorities believe Burden took the video, which shows a minor inside the bathroom unaware the video was being taken. Tippecanoe County Sheriff Barry Richard said the video shows Burden in a state of arousal.

Richard said so far, there are only two videos believed to be taken by Burden. But the investigation isn't over yet.

"Additional electronic equipment needs to be investigated and gone through," said Richard. "We want to be very thorough with it and make sure we get all the potential evidence that there is."

Richard also said investigators are still working to ensure there are no other victims.

"It's something that we want to make sure was not disseminated through any other routes or any other individuals," said Richard. "So all of that will be looked into as well."

On Wednesday, Burden went before the Tippecanoe County Magistrate for the second time this week, after prosecutors placed a 72-hour hold on him Monday. In court, Burden was emotional as he heard his charges.

At Monday's court appearance, Burden was told he is to have no contact with his wife and kids or have any unsupervised contact with anyone under 18 years old. Wednesday, a no contact order was issued for two people identified by initials. He still can't have unsupervised contact with anyone under 18.

A \$17,500 surety bond and \$1,750 cash bond were issued. The judge increased his bond due to ties outside the U.S. and threats Burden made to injure himself at the time of his arrest.

A jury trial has been scheduled for Nov. 14.

July 15, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Church music leader charged with possessing child porn

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Prosecutors charged ousted Calvary Baptist Church music leader Craig Burden Wednesday afternoon with attempted child exploitation, possession of child pornography and voyeurism.

Burden, 28, of West Lafayette was arrested Friday night on preliminary charges from investigation that started when Burden's wife called deputies after finding what she believed was child pornography on his computer, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Burden also is accused of having a video he is suspected of making of a juvenile in undergarments and sitting on a bathtub, according to the affidavit. This video was taken July 3 with a cellphone and shot from underneath the bathroom door, the affidavit alleged.

He also is accused of possessing images that showed nude females who appeared to be younger than 18, several images of nude prepubescent females and images of an adult male engaging in sex with a prepubescent female.

In court Wednesday for his initial hearing, Burden quietly sobbed as Tippecanoe County Magistrate Dan Moore began reading the three charges against him.

If convicted, Burden faces a possible sentence of between one and six years in prison for attempted child exploitation and between six months and 2 1/2 years in prison on the possession of child pornography and voyeurism charges.

His trial date is set for Nov. 14.

Burden's bond was increased from \$10,000 to \$17,500 surety bond and \$1,750 cash. Moore told Burden the bond is higher than normal for the felony crimes with which he's charged.

"It is my understanding that you have ties to Belize," Moore said, adding that Burden supposedly made statements on Friday that he might be a danger to himself.

If Burden can post bond, he must surrender his passport.

During a hearing Monday, Burden was ordered not to have contact with his wife and children and barred from going to his house, if he can post bond. On Wednesday, Moore changed the no-contact order, barring him from two individuals identified in court by their initials. He also may not have any unsupervised contact with anyone younger than 18.

July 15, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Son charged with burgling mom's house

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Malik Cole was charged Wednesday with breaking into his mother's Lafayette home on Peebleshire Lane and stealing electronics that he told his friends belonged to him.

Cole, 20, broke a window with a rock and collected video games, two gaming systems and two TVs, which he then sold at an area pawn shop and a video game store, according to a probable cause affidavit.

He was booked early Friday into Tippecanoe County Jail, where he's being held on \$25,000 bond.

Cole had moved out of the house two years prior and didn't have permission to be there when his mother wasn't home, the affidavit states.

Cole faces one count of burglary, a felony punishable by two to 12 years. He faces one felony count of residential entry and a misdemeanor theft charge.

Cole was further charged with a habitual offender enhancement that carries an additional penalty of up to six years, if he's convicted on the lesser felony residential entry charge.

His criminal history includes three felony theft convictions in Tippecanoe County.

July 13, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Two teens charged in April 11 robbery

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Terrell Lee Gates and Conner Allen Odom face six charges, accusing the duo of an April 11 robbery of a man in West Lafayette.

Gates, 19, and Odom, 17, both of Lafayette, were formally charged Monday with robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery, theft, carrying a handgun without a license, conspiracy to commit fraud and fraud.

At the time of the robbery, Gates was 18 and Odom was 16, but because of the nature of the crime, Odom's case was automatically filed in adult court, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington said.

The two are accused of robbing a man at gunpoint, taking his cellphone and wallet around 2 a.m. April 11, according to the probable cause affidavit. The two then purchased a pizza using one of stolen cards, prosecutors allege.

Odom was arrested and has posted bond.

Gates, who had an initial hearing Monday, was arrested last week and remains jailed in lieu of \$15,000 bond.

July 13, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette woman accused of hitting child with belt

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WFLI) — A Lafayette woman is facing criminal charges after she's accused of injuring a 5-year-old girl with a belt.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors said in early July, 52-year-old Wilma Allen hit the child with a belt at a West Lafayette home. The child suffered injuries.

Allen, who's previously convicted of five felonies, is charged with battery on a child and being a habitual offender.

July 13, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Great-grandma charged with striking child

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Charges were filed Monday against a Lafayette woman accused of striking her 5-year-old great-grandchild with a belt last week.

Wilma Allen, 52, admitted that she hit the child at her granddaughter's West Lafayette home, where police responded July 7 to a domestic disturbance, according to a probable cause affidavit.

The child had bruising and a missing piece of skin, and the child's mother had a swollen eye with injuries to her lip and shoulder, the affidavit states.

Allen faces one charge of battery on a child younger than 14, a felony punishable by six to 30 months.

She also faces a habitual offender enhancement punishable by to six additional years because she's accumulated at least three prior, unrelated felony convictions, including aggravated battery causing great bodily harm in Cook County, Illinois, in 2002.

Allen has additional felony theft and controlled substance convictions in Cook and Tippecanoe counties.

July 13, 2015: WLFITV

Former worship leader ordered to have no contact with family

Kelly Roberts

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A former West Lafayette worship leader appeared in front of a judge Monday at the Tippecanoe County Jail.

On Friday, 28-year-old Craig Burden was arrested for voyeurism and sexual gratification with a victim less than 14 years of age.

In his appearance Monday in front of Tippecanoe County Magistrate Dan Moore, Burden was told he is to have no contact with his wife and kids. If released on bond, he is not allowed to return to the home he shared with his family or have any unsupervised contact with anyone under 18 years old.

Prosecutors have put a 72-hour hold on Burden to file formal charges against him. That means Burden can only remain in jail for 72 more hours without having formal charges filed against him. The deadline to file charges in this case is Wednesday by 2 p.m.

As News 18 previously reported, and as Burden told Moore Monday, he has been fired from his job as a worship leader at Calvary Baptist Church in West Lafayette. Burden said since he is unemployed and he cannot have contact with his family, he does not know if he can afford an attorney. He is scheduled to meet with a public defender.

Burden's bond remains at \$10,000.

July 13, 2015: TCPSN

Conner Allen Odom, 17, was charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon- Handgun (Lev 3 Fel), Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 3 Fel), Theft (A Misd), Carrying a Handgun Without a Licenses (A Misd), Conspiracy to Commit Fraud (Lev 6 Fel), and Fraud (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. This case was investigated by the West Lafayette Police Department.

July 13, 2015: TCPSN

Terrell Lee Gates, 19, was charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon- Handgun (Lev 3 Fel), Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 3 Fel), Theft (A Misd), Carrying a Handgun Without a Licenses (A Misd), Conspiracy to Commit Fraud (Lev 6 Fel), and Fraud (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. This case was investigated by the West Lafayette Police Department.

July 13, 2015: TCPSN

Wilma B. Allen, 51, was charged today with Battery on a Child (Lev 6 Fel) and Habitual Offender Enhancement by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 10, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

September trial set for X-mas homicide suspects



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Two suspects tied to the Christmas Day slaying of 26-year-old Primitivo Flores had their trial dates pushed back six weeks on Friday.

William Alexander Paz, 43, and Juan Alberto Imul Pop, 25, were scheduled for trial on Aug. 4, but the trial dates were moved Friday to Sept. 15, according to Tippecanoe Superior 1 court personnel when asked the morning's trial readiness conference.

Paz is accused of stabbing Flores early Christmas Day, then dumping his body in the 3300 block of U.S. 52, just north of Veterans Memorial Parkway. The body was discovered that morning after the sun rose.

When police caught up with Paz on Dec. 27, his van was packed as if he was preparing to leave, according to information presented in Paz's initial hearing.

Pop is accused of helping Paz clean up the bloody apartment. Police said earlier this year that Pop left town on Dec. 26 after the manager at Teppanyaki, the restaurant where the two men worked, kept pressing him as to why Paz was not at work.

Paz is charged with murder, assisting a criminal involving murder, false informing, failure to report a dead body and identity deception. If convicted of murder, Paz faces between 45 and 65 years in prison.

Pop was arrested in Mansfield, Ohio, on Jan. 3. He is charged with two lower-level felonies — assisting a criminal who committed murder, assisting a criminal who committed a felony, and a misdemeanor — failure to report a dead body.

July 10, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Former day care worker admits he possessed child porn



A former West Lafayette day care worker accused of disseminating child pornography online admitted Friday that he possessed two videos of toddlers engaged in sex acts.

Adam Justice, 24, pleaded guilty to two felony counts of possessing child pornography.

If the judge accepts an agreement between Justice, his defense attorney and the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office, four additional counts of child exploitation – felonies punishable by up to six years apiece – will be dismissed.

Justice, who spent about six months behind bars before his release on bond, faces a total sentence of one to three years.

Furthermore, he'll be required to register as a sex offender for 10 years, undergo treatment specific to his offenses and avoid having unsupervised contact with children younger than 16.

Justice will not be permitted to enter the property of his mother's day care center, Just Us Kids, where he worked last September when detectives reportedly caught him downloading the illegal video files from the Internet then spreading them to others via peer-to-peer file-sharing network.

No local children are believed to have been involved.

Defense attorney Kent Moore had begun arguing in May that certain statements his client made to police before his arrest should be suppressed, preventing prosecutors from admitting the statements as evidence during a jury trial.

Friday's hearing had been scheduled as an opportunity for Moore to flesh out his argument before Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 Judge Randy Williams. But the issues at play in the motion to suppress were no longer relevant, thanks to the plea deal offered by Chief Deputy Prosecutor Kristen McVey, Moore said.

Williams took the plea deal under advisement until the conclusion of Justice's sentencing hearing, which was scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Aug. 27.

Justice remains out on bond.

July 10, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Stolen squad car case proceeds toward trial

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A man accused of striking a sheriff's deputy, stealing her squad car then leading police on a two-county chase in May was back in court Friday.

Marcus Bramlett, 25, appeared in Tippecanoe Circuit Court for an initial hearing on additional charges stemming from the 30-hour manhunt that included a home invasion, second vehicle theft and ultimate surrender to a Lafayette police SWAT team.

He faces six felonies and four misdemeanors in Tippecanoe County, plus five felonies and a habitual offender enhancement in Warren County.

The most serious offense, residential burglary with a deadly weapon, is punishable by 10 to 30 years. He also faces two counts of robbery with a deadly weapon, one in each county, punishable by three to 16 years apiece.

The alleged enhancement adds a decade to his potential sentence.

Bramlett was originally arrested May 12 on battery and resisting law enforcement. While in custody, he reported a medical emergency – one which Tippecanoe County Sheriff Barry Richard believes was faked – and overpowered a female deputy while in transit back to the jail from the hospital May 15.

A review board later found that the deputy was justified in firing at Bramlett as he stole her vehicle.

Authorities say Bramlett drove to a home near Attica, stole a second car and drove back to Lafayette to seek refuge in a house in the 1000 block of South Third Street, where Lafayette police ultimately rearrested him peacefully.

While housed inside Tippecanoe County Jail less than a week later, Bramlett climbed to the ceiling of a bathroom, fell and seriously injured himself. Surveillance footage of the fall was reviewed by the Journal & Courier.

A jury trial is scheduled to begin Aug. 11 in Warren Circuit Court. A trial date in Tippecanoe Circuit Court has yet to be scheduled.

An initial hearing on two misdemeanors is scheduled for July 13 in Tippecanoe Superior Court 5.

July 10, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man sentenced to community corrections for meth



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Mark Allen Landes pleaded guilty in April to possession of methamphetamine, and on Thursday, he was sentenced to one year and 90 days at Tippecanoe County Community Corrections.

The balance of his two-year sentence was suspended, and he'll be on probation. Four other charges against Landes, 43, of Lafayette were dismissed as part of the plea agreement filed in Tippecanoe Superior 2.

Police found Landes with what they believed to be paraphernalia during a traffic stop on Jan. 8, according to affidavits filed with the charging information. When they went back to his house, police alleged they found active manufacturing of methamphetamine in his room and inside a nearby shed.

July 10, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man pleads guilty to child porn charges

Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man facing child pornography charges enters a guilty plea in a Tippecanoe County courtroom.

In a hearing late Friday morning, 24-year-old Adam Justice pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of child pornography.

In September of last year, Justice was arrested. Court documents show police were able to connect child pornography to Justice's computer.

Justice originally faced three counts of possession of child pornography as well as three counts of child exploitation. As part of the plea agreement, the four other charges will be dismissed.

Additionally, under the terms of the agreement, Justice would serve a sentence of up to three years in the Department of Corrections. He would also serve time on probation and will have to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

The judge said he would take the plea agreement under advisement and make a decision during Justice's sentencing, which is scheduled for Aug. 27.

July 9, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Burglar gets 10-year sentence for two break-ins



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Christopher Ryan Frank will spend six years in an Indiana prison for two burglaries last September.

Frank, 27, of Lafayette, was caught trying to run away from a burglary on Sept. 11, 2014, and he later admitted to police he'd burglarized another home a few days earlier.

Last month, Frank pleaded guilty in Tippecanoe Superior 2 to two counts of burglary, and he was sentenced Thursday to 10 years on each count. The sentences will be served at the same time.

Judge Steve Meyer ordered that Frank serve six years in a Department of Corrections facility, then two years on community corrections. The final two years of his sentence is suspended, and Frank will be on supervised probation.

July 8, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man convicted after breaking into Dayton home



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is convicted of burglary and residential entry after a two-day jury trial.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Brandon Woodcock, 24, broke into a Dayton home and stole several items last September. A witness watched Woodcock hop over a neighbor's fence and check all of the windows and doors.

After deputies arrived, they found Woodcock trying to jump back over the fence. They found a TV, game system and headphones the residents reported missing from the garage.

Sentencing is set for July 24. Prosecutors said he faces 2-12 years in prison. After sentencing, Woodcock will be transferred to Shelby County to face unrelated burglary charges there.

July 7, 2015: TCPSN

Cynthia L Willis, 56, of West Lafayette, IN was charged with Welfare Fraud (C Fel), and two (2) counts of Theft (D Fel) today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 7, 2015: TCPSN

Matthew Ryan Braden, 23, was charged today with Battery Committed by Means of a Deadly Weapon (Lev 5 Fel), Criminal Recklessness Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 6 Fel), Residential Entry (Level 6 Fel), and Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

July 1, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Plea deal struck in Purdue choke attack

Agreement calls for time-served sentence, immediate self-deportation.



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A man accused of choking a female Purdue University student on campus last August with a phone cord will be required to return immediately to China, if the judge accepts the terms of a plea deal reached Wednesday.

Boda Wu, a 22-year-old Chinese national who was enrolled as a student at the time of the attack, pleaded guilty but mentally ill to battery with a deadly weapon, a felony punishable by one to six years.

Wu testified that his recollection of the incident in question is foggy, but he admitted to approaching the victim – whom he'd never met – as she waited for a bus the morning of Aug. 31, wrapping the cord around her neck and restricting her airway.

Wu's defense attorney, Brian Dekker, said Wednesday that his client had experienced a psychotic break with paranoid visions.

Wu had in February been declared psychologically unfit for trial, but after months of mental health treatment, he was declared competent again in June.

Joined by family for Wednesday's hearing, he assured Tippecanoe Circuit Court Judge Tom Busch that he understood the plea deal struck between Dekker and the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

Busch asked whether Wu's judgment might be clouded by drugs, alcohol or mental illness, rewording the question a few different ways until the defendant acknowledged comprehension.

"I think clearly, and I can make a clear decision," Wu responded.

The agreement calls for the dismissal of four felony charges, including criminal confinement while armed with a deadly weapon, an offense punishable by three to 16 years.

It stipulates that Wu's sentence match the length of time he's already spent in custody, so he would be released on the day of sentencing to return immediately to China.

Busch took the plea under advisement and said he would determine at the conclusion of a sentencing hearing, scheduled for 1 p.m. July 21, whether to accept it and enter conviction.

"Thank you for getting this case resolved," he said.

July 1, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man accused in Village Pantry heist charged

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Formal charges were filed Wednesday against 21-year-old Forrester C. Marshall, who's accused of carrying out Lafayette's most recent Village Pantry robbery.

With a bandana covering his face and a gun in his hand, Marshall entered the store at 6 S. Ninth St. shortly before 5 a.m. June 23, demanding money and cigarettes, according to a probable cause affidavit.

The next day, Marshall was reportedly overheard talking to another man about robbing a nearby business. When officers arrived, they discovered that the firearm tucked in Marshall's waistband was a BB gun with a laser, the affidavit states.

Officers further found heroin and a bandana matching the one worn during the robbery.

On June 25, officers found Marshall had a loaded .22-caliber handgun without a permit to carry. He admitted robbing the Village Pantry and fleeing with cash and two cartons of cigarettes, the affidavit states.

Marshall faces a felony punishable by three to 16 years for allegedly robbing the convenience store with a deadly weapon, plus a lesser felony for alleged possession of a narcotic drug and two misdemeanors.

July 1, 2015: TCPSN

Cartilus E. Walters, 22, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Intimidation by Drawing or Using a Deadly Weapon (Lev 5 Fel), Residential Entry (Lev 6 Fel), and Resisting Law Enforcement (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department.

July 1, 2015: TCPSN

Forrester C. Marshall, 21, of Rossville, IN was charged today with Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 3 Fel), Theft (A Misd), Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd), and Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. This case was investigated by the Lafayette Police Department.

July 1, 2015: WLFITV

Man accused of robbing a VP has been charged

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – The man accused of robbing a Lafayette Village Pantry in late June has been charged.

Police say 21-year-old Forrester Marshall showed a gun to the clerk at the VP on Ninth Street and got away with money and cigarettes.

Marshall is facing felony charges of possession of a narcotic and robbery.

July 1, 2015: WLFITV

Boda Wu pleads guilty but mentally ill

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A former Purdue student accused of attacking another student with a phone cord has pleaded guilty to the crime.

Twenty-two-year-old Boda Wu entered a plea of guilty but mentally ill to battery by means of a deadly weapon in a Tippecanoe County courtroom Wednesday afternoon.

The victim in the August 2014 incident said Wu came up to her and wrapped a phone cord around her neck. She managed to scream and get untangled from the cord.

According to court documents, that's when Wu grabbed her throat with both hands. Witnesses got hold of Wu and held him down until police arrived.

Wu will be given a sentence equal to time served and he will be allowed to return to China. His four remaining charges will be dismissed if the court accepts the agreement.

Wu's sentencing is set for July 21.

June 29, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Heroin-induced medical scare spawns charges

Purdue University student allegedly delivered heroin to fellow student's home last spring, lied to police

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A former Purdue University student accused of injecting a West Lafayette woman with heroin and then lying to authorities after she fell unresponsive was charged Monday with two felonies and three misdemeanors.

Mahmood Alrawi, who was enrolled during the spring semester when the incident took place, was inside a fellow student's home on Malibu Drive when medics arrived March 21 to check on the unresponsive woman.

Alrawi, 24, initially told police the woman had taken Percocet, a prescription narcotic painkiller, shortly before her medical emergency, according to a probable cause affidavit.

When the woman awoke, however, she told police that Alrawi had brought her a dose of heroin to sample, transferred the drug into a clean syringe for her and injected it into her system.

Alrawi faces two felony narcotics charges, including one count of dealing punishable by one to six years. He faces misdemeanors for allegedly possessing paraphernalia and false informing.

Alrawi was arrested then released March 23 from Tippecanoe County Jail on \$500 cash bond.

Additionally, he was convicted June 15 on theft and possession of a controlled substance charges for which he'd been arrested May 2, 2014.

June 29, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Parents charged in teen's baseball bat beating

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Chad and Cynthia Wilkins of Lafayette were charged Monday with beating their 16-year-old son with a baseball bat last week.

Detectives were sent to their home in the 3500 block of Golden Lane about 11 p.m. June 21 to check on the victim's well-being, when the two were interviewed and arrested, according to police records.

More than two weeks prior, 40-year-old Cynthia Wilkins had posted photos on Facebook that had previously been reported to police as depicting injuries. The images were accompanied by belittling messages, according to the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

She had deactivated her Facebook account earlier this month, but she learned June 21 that the victim had reactivated it, a probable cause affidavit states.

By her own account to police, she grew angry and grabbed her son by the neck, wrapped her arms around him and carried him into her bedroom to discuss the Facebook issue, according to the affidavit.

Chad Wilkins, 42, initially told police that he yelled at the boy and grabbed a baseball bat, but didn't touch the victim with it. He later said the situation got out of hand and he started "jabbing" the victim in the torso area, court documents state.

His wife told police that he'd only hit the mattress, not the boy, with the bat.

Their accounts didn't match that of their son, nor did it account for the injuries documented by investigators.

The boy had several red marks on his body, including scratch marks on his neck, a large red mark on the top of his left shoulder consistent with a rug burn, bruises on his face and back and an abrasion on the top of his head, the affidavit states.

The victim further had showed signs of a 4-inch-by-1-inch bruise on the upper left arm that appeared to have been inflicted by a blunt object matching the shape of the baseball bat, which police collected as evidence.

The victim told police that Chad and Cynthia Wilkins had thrown potatoes at him and that Chad Wilkins had punched him in the head and struck his arm with the barrel of the bat about 15 times.

Chad Wilkins faces three felonies: battery with a deadly weapon, neglect of a dependent and battery on a household member in the presence of a child younger than 16. He was released June 23 from Tippecanoe County Jail on \$500 cash plus \$10,000 surety bond.

Cynthia Wilkins faces two felonies: battery with a deadly weapon and neglect of a dependent. She was released June 23 from Tippecanoe County Jail on \$500 cash plus \$5,000 surety bond.

June 29, 2015: TCPSN

Mahmood S. Alrawi, 24, of West Lafayette, IN was charged with Dealing in a Narcotic Drug - Heroin (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 6 Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), False Informing (A Misd) and Criminal Recklessness (B Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

These charges were the result of a response to an unresponsive female who had overdosed on heroin. It is alleged that Alrawi injected the female with heroin and was investigated by the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department.

June 29, 2015: TCPSN

Roxanne Coleen Fields, 44, was charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Methamphetamine (Lev 2 Fel), Dealing in Methamphetamine (Lev 2 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Lev 4 Fel), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), and Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. This case was investigated by the West Lafayette Police Department.

June 29, 2015: TCPSN

Jeffery Allen Feeney, 46, was charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Methamphetamine (Lev 2 Fel), Dealing in Methamphetamine (Lev 2 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Lev 4 Fel), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), and Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. This case was investigated by the West Lafayette Police Department.

June 29, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Possessing firearms leads to 28-year sentence

A serious violent felon caught with firearms in his girlfriend's home last year has social ties to suspects in recent homicide, violent home invasion.



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Being caught with firearms last year at his girlfriend's Lafayette home will cost Danny "Boone" Horton a couple decades of freedom.

The 47-year-old was sentenced Monday to 28 years in the Indiana prison system after a jury convicted him in May of felony possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon.

A decade of Horton's sentence was based on his status as a habitual offender. His criminal history includes felony convictions for burglary in 1989 and 1995, plus drugs in 2011 and 2014, according to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

Horton won't begin serving that sentence, however, until he completes a 20-year prison term handed down in Warren Circuit Court last month for dealing methamphetamine, Harrington noted Monday.

Local law enforcement acting on a tip from federal investigators tracked Horton to his girlfriend's house in the 3200 block of Townsend Drive in Lafayette on Feb. 25, 2014, when they found a semi-automatic rifle, a handgun and ammunition, plus marijuana and paraphernalia.

Horton was arrested, but his girlfriend, 44-year-old Jennifer Ellison, was questioned and released. Less than 14 months later, Ellison participated in an armed home invasion in Benton County near Oxford, during which a homeowner was shot through the leg, according to Indiana State Police.

Ellison faces a felony charge in Benton Circuit Court punishable by 20 to 40 years for allegedly working with an accomplice, 34-year-old Shane Townsley of Flora, to commit residential burglary causing injury.

She was arrested April 23 without incident, but Townsley was killed that night in a shootout with police as they tried to apprehend him in Tennessee.

Townsley was the sole suspect in the April 21 homicide death of 32-year-old Wesley Ehrie, who was shot to death near Ninth and Salem streets in Lafayette.

June 29, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Charges filed in traffic stop meth bust

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A man and woman arrested last week when West Lafayette police reportedly found meth-making materials during a traffic stop were formally charged Monday with three felonies and two misdemeanors apiece.

Jeffery Feeney and Roxanne Fields, both of Lafayette, are accused of dealing methamphetamine and conspiring to deal methamphetamine, felonies punishable by 10 to 30 years.

Feeney, 46, was driving in the 300 block of Brown Street late June 23 when officers noticed that his license plate light wasn't working and pulled him over, ultimately recovering more than 11 grams of the drug, according to the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

At the time of his arrest, Feeney was out on bond after being charged with dealing methamphetamine and related offenses in February. He was convicted of conspiring to deal methamphetamine in 2003 and faces a revocation of probation in that case.

Fields, 44, was convicted in 2002 of possessing cocaine and marijuana. She was convicted of possessing marijuana with a prior conviction in 2010.

In addition to the dealing charges, Feeney and Fields face a lesser felony for allegedly possessing at least 10 grams of methamphetamine, plus misdemeanors for allegedly possessing a synthetic or lookalike drug and paraphernalia.

June 29, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man sentenced to 30 years behind bars for child molesting



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man is sentenced after being found guilty of two counts of child molesting.

William Coleman, 45, has been sentenced to 30 years in the Department of Corrections and five years of supervised probation.

According to prosecutors, in April of 2012, a 6-year-old girl told investigators Coleman touched her inappropriately.

Coleman was charged in June 2014 and found guilty in June of this year after a two-day jury trial.

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) **June 29, 2015: WLFITV**

Facebook, baseball bat leads to charges for father, mother



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — Two parents faces several charges after investigators say they beat their 16-year-old son with a baseball bat after a dispute over Facebook.

Chad Wilkins, 42, and Cynthia Wilkins, 40, were taken into custody last week.

According to court documents, the teen told police Cynthia Wilkins deactivated his Facebook account, but he reactivated it. His mother then pulled the 16-year-old into a bedroom where she smacked and punched him. The victim told investigators Chad Wilkins hit him with a baseball bat several times and both of his parents threw potatoes at him.

Officers saw injuries consistent with the teen's story.

Cynthia admitted to posting photos of the teen to Facebook with belittling comments.

Cynthia faces two charges and Chad faces three charges, including battery with a deadly weapon and neglect of a dependent.

June 26, 2015: WLFITV

Woman pleads guilty to robbery with a deadly weapon



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — One of three people accused of robbing a man who answered an online escort ad has admitted her involvement in the crime.

Twenty-year-old Larissa Catron pleaded guilty Wednesday to robbery while armed with a deadly weapon.

Last October, a Purdue grad student met up with a woman who placed an escort advertisement on the internet. The man paid Catron \$100 for companionship, and then she told him to leave.

One man then held a gun to the student's head, while others took his cash and cellphone and ransacked his car. The men also threatened to have the student arrested for soliciting prostitution.

Catron told investigators she had done this to about 15 other men.

The two other people accused in the crime are preparing for their day in court. The trial for 21-year-old Rodney Lloyd and 19-year-old Quenton Hansen is scheduled to begin July 21

June 26, 2015: WLFITV

Man sentenced after having homeless men cash bad checks



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A man who picked up homeless men in Indianapolis and brought them to Lafayette to try to cash bad checks is sentenced to five years in prison.

Twenty-five-year-old Shuntae Gaither made multiple trips to several banks around town last September. Over the course of nine days, several of the homeless men involved were arrested.

Gaither was driving when authorities stopped a car on Interstate 65 with two homeless men in the back seat.

In April, he pleaded guilty to several felony charges including fraud on a financial institution.

June 25, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Two charged in cocaine-dealing conspiracy

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Two men were charged Thursday with conspiring to deal cocaine in Lafayette after officers recovered more than 70 grams of the drug from their two apartments in the 1300 block of North 15th Street.

Kentrae Wade, 35, who's known on the street as "Trey," was charged with five felonies, including three punishable by 10 to 30 years.

Wade, who lives in Chicago, was seen delivering cocaine to 42-year-old Lafayette resident Arrion Walton in April, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Walton, who's known as "Blue," was among seven arrested last month following a four-month Tippecanoe County Drug Task Force investigation. He was charged Thursday with four felonies.

Walton posted \$5,000 cash plus \$50,000 surety bond when he was released June 2 from Tippecanoe County Jail.

Wade, who was previously convicted in Cook County, Illinois, of dealing cocaine in 2008, has never been booked locally, according to jail staff.

June 25, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Fired teacher admits to sex with student



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Jake Robinson, a former McCutcheon High School physical education teacher and assistant varsity football coach, pleaded guilty Thursday, admitting that he had a months-long sexual relationship last fall with a 16-year-old student.

Robinson, 38, was fired in January, about a week after being charged with five felony counts of child seduction punishable by one to six years apiece.

His attorney, Brian Dekker, said last month the decision to plead guilty was made without the benefit of a plea bargain.

Dekker reiterated that statement Thursday to Tippecanoe Superior Court 2 Judge Steven Meyer, who accepted the plea and entered conviction.

Robinson testified that he and the student — who is not being identified because she's a juvenile and the victim of a sex crime — engaged in a variety of sex acts on at least five occasions from October until his arrest in January.

The girl reportedly told authorities that she and the teacher had sex as many as 45 to 50 times in his parents' home.

Robinson, who remains out on bond, declined to comment Thursday on his decision to plead guilty.

"I got a family that doesn't need this brought back up again," he said, waiting outside the adult probation office after his hearing.

Sentencing, which Dekker said will include registration as a sex offender, is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Aug. 7.

June 25, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Last of check fraud ring sentenced to 5 years



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

One of the men behind last September's rash of fraudulent checks cashed in the area will serve five years in prison for four felonies.

Shuntae Gaither, 25, of Decatur, Georgia, pleaded guilty on April 10 to two counts of conspiracy to commit fraud on a financial institution and two counts of fraud on a financial institution. But in May, Gaither tried to withdraw his guilty plea, but Tippecanoe Superior 1 Judge Randy Williams denied that request, according to court records.

On Thursday, Williams sentenced Gaither to five years in a Department of Corrections' facility, according to a sentence summary.

Gaither was one of two men who recruited homeless men in the Indianapolis area to cash fraudulent checks, according to the sentencing summary. After recruiting the men, he would drive them to Lafayette, where some of the checks were successfully cashed. Others, however, were not, and the men who attempted to cash them were arrested and charged, according to the summary.

Six other men accused in these incidents have pleaded guilty and been sentence, making Gaither the last to learn his fate.

Williams ordered Gaither to pay \$45,859.50 in restitution to the various banks he targeted, according to the sentencing summary.

June 25, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man convicted of theft and forgery charges

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

A jury convicted Jason Morehouse, 37, of Lafayette, of two counts of theft and one count of forgery after a jury trial that ended Wednesday.

The trial in Tippecanoe Superior 2 started Tuesday and ended before noon Wednesday with the guilty verdicts.

Jurors convicted Morehouse for stealing credit cards from a house on March 23, 2014, then using the cards to purchase four tires at a local retail store on March 25, 2014, according to evidence presented to the jurors.

When sentenced next month, Morehouse faces between two and 10 years in prison.

June 24, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Woman gets 5-year sentence for drugs, neglect



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Erica Shires pleaded guilty last month to possession of a narcotic drug and neglect of a dependent stemming from a Nov. 1, 2014, bust. On Wednesday, she received a five-year sentence.

Shires was at an east side hotel that evening where four adults were accused of using drugs in front of children, including Shires' child, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Tippecanoe Superior Judge Randy Williams sentenced Shires to one year in the Tippecanoe County Jail, two years at community corrections and two years on supervised probation.

She was booked into the jail Wednesday after her sentencing hearing.

June 24, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Mother charged with felony neglect

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Kyla Jones faces one felony charge of neglect of a dependent after police found her passed out last week in a hotel room with her child unattended, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Jones, 21, of Lafayette, was at an east side hotel when police received a call June 17 about a woman chasing her child around the back of the hotel.

Police found Jones passed out on the bed in the hotel room and her 4-year-old child was unattended. The water in the shower was running and the tub was nearly overflowing, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Officers noticed an empty whiskey bottle on a nearby table, and at one point, Jones was sitting on the side of the bed hugging her child and fell off the bed onto the child, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Jones was arrested that night and remains incarcerated at the Tippecanoe County Jail.

June 24, 2015: WLFITV

Taxi driver uses stolen credit card to buy tires



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) – Jason Morehouse, 37, was found guilty of using a stolen credit card to buy tires while driving a taxi.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors say in March of last year, the Lafayette man burglarized a home on Reed Street in the Lindberg Village subdivision. Later that day, they say he drove a taxi and bought four tires from the Sears Auto Center using a stolen credit card.

Morehouse told deputies he had given another man a ride. But employees of Sears say Morehouse was the only person in the vehicle.

A jury convicted him Wednesday on two counts of theft and one count of forgery.

He faces from 2-10 years in prison.

June 24, 2015: WLFITV

Woman who used drugs in motel room with kids sentenced



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLF) — Erica Shires was sentenced to one year in jail after Lafayette police found drugs in her motel room with four children inside.

She pleaded guilty last month to possession of a narcotic drug and neglect of a dependent.

Last November, officers were called a room at the Knights Inn because of a complaint that Shires was using heroin with children present.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors say she was also sentenced to two years of community corrections and two years on supervised probation.

June 24, 2015: WLFITV

Tippecanoe Co. woman charged with neglect of a dependent

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLF) — A woman has been charged Wednesday after police said they found her passed out in a motel room with a child present.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors have charged 21-year-old Kyla Jones with neglect of a dependent.

According to court documents, officers were dispatched to the Motel 6 on Frontage Road last week. Police said there were reports of a woman yelling and chasing her child around the back of the motel.

When officers arrived at the room, they heard a child screaming “mommy” and saw a female lying on the bed wearing only a shirt. Once officers were in the room, Jones was found unresponsive. She eventually opened her eyes, made strange hand gestures and incoherent statements to investigators.

A bite mark was found on the child’s leg. Jones admitted to police she drank a lot of alcohol.

June 23, 2015: WLFITV

Man sentenced after 2014 Lafayette shooting



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) — A Lafayette man is sentenced to more than a decade in prison in connection to a shooting last May.

Joshua Allen was sentenced to 12 years behind bars after pleading guilty last month to battery by means of a deadly weapon and unlawful use of a firearm.

As News 18 reported, police were called to the 3000 block of Elk Street in Lafayette on May 10, 2014, for a reported shooting.

At the time, witnesses told officers two men were fighting when the shots were fired.

According to prosecutors, the victim appeared to have a gunshot wound to the abdomen and had surgery for his injuries.

Allen was taken into custody a couple of blocks away from the crime scene.

June 23, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette woman charged with welfare fraud

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Prosecutors charged Regina Larcenia Jones-Johnson with two counts of welfare fraud and two counts of theft.

Jones-Johnson, 44, of Lafayette, is accused of receiving an estimated \$6,742 in welfare assistance for which she was not entitled to receive, according to the probable cause affidavit. The alleged fraud occurred between June 2013 through July 2014.

Jones-Johnson is accused of not accurately reporting her household income, as well as the correct composition of her household, according to the affidavit, which specifically notes that she didn't tell welfare officials that her daughter's father lived with them.

June 23, 2015: WTHR

Man gets 27 years in prison for killing friend's father in Lafayette

By The Associated Press

LAFAYETTE, Ind. - A man accused of killing a 54-year-old man last year in Lafayette has been sentenced to 27 years in prison.

Twenty-six-year-old James Bixler also received three years of probation Monday in the August death of Rick Couch. Bixler had been charged with murder, but pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter last month.

The (Lafayette) Journal and Courier reports Bixler was a longtime friend of Couch's son. Jeffrey Couch testified Monday that he had asked his father if he could host Bixler and his young child for a few days.

Authorities say Rick Couch was found dead the next day. Bixler testified last month they got into an argument that turned physical.

Tippecanoe County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Kristen McVey says Rick Couch's injuries indicated he was beaten and stomped to death.

June 22, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

30-year sentence for stomping man to death

Two families in mourning testified Monday during sentencing. Some spoke on behalf of the homicide victim. Others advocated for the confessed killer.

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

James "Mikey" Bixler was sentenced Monday to 30 years for killing the father of a lifelong friend last August in a drunken rage.

Bixler, 26, had been charged with murder, but he took a plea deal last month and admitted instead to voluntary manslaughter, a lesser charge.

Jeffrey Couch, one of the victim's six children, testified during Monday's sentencing hearing that he had called his father Aug. 19, asking him to house Bixler and Bixler's young child for a few days.

His father, 54-year-old Rick Couch, agreed reluctantly.

The next morning he was dead.

"What did we do to you, man?" Jeffrey Couch asked, locking eyes with the defendant.

"I was helping you out," he added. "I asked my dad to let you stay there. And you killed him."

Tippecanoe Circuit Court Judge Tom Busch said the tearful testimony of relatives on both sides of this case represents the tremendous loss afflicting each family.

"Sadness in the room is palpable," he said. "Two men were deeply loved by their families, linked by friendship between the defendant and the victim's son."

Busch said the night of drinking and drug use that preceded Rick Couch's death clearly contributed to Bixler's indiscretion, which shattered many lives irreversibly.

"There's no way of putting things back together," he said.

Tippecanoe County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Kristen McVey noted that the victim's injuries included multiple facial fractures, a collapsed lung and a traumatic head injury that caused bleeding on the brain.

The injuries were indicative of the fact that he was severely beaten and stomped to death, she said.

McVey noted, furthermore, that Bixler left his child behind for several hours in the home with Rick Couch's body.

Families shattered

Charlene Summers, a close family friend of the victim, took the stand on behalf of his 17 grandchildren, all of whom are 15 or younger.

She read letters submitted by the two eldest kids, one of whom is housed at a mental health treatment facility after having attempted suicide a second time since Rick Couch's death.

"My grandpa was my rock, and now he is gone," the 14-year-old wrote.

The victim's older sister, Karen Moore, said the family sorely missed her brother on Father's Day this year.

They mourned the fact that he'll never have the chance to hold his youngest son's newborn daughter and show her the attention he showed his other grandchildren, she said.

Moore told the court that Bixler doesn't deserve to walk free ever. She's haunted by thoughts of her brother's final moments alive.

"There's not a day go by that I can't hear him pleading for his life," she said.

Bixler's parents and aunt testified on behalf of his defense, describing him as loving and nonviolent.

"I understand that Mikey must pay for his actions," his mother, Debbie Miller said, apologizing to the Couch family for the pain her son inflicted.

She asked the judge to impose a sentence of 25 years, the minimum stipulated in the plea agreement.

Emmett Bixler, the defendant's father, said he thinks his son's actions constituted involuntary manslaughter, an even lesser charge than was offered in his plea deal.

"Mikey is not a monster," he said, breaking down in tears.

The sentence calls for 27 years with the Indiana Department of Correction followed by three years on probation.

With good-time credit, a 30-year sentence amounts to about 22 1/2 actual years, Busch explained.

James Bixler, having been in jail more than 10 months, has served more than a year of his sentence, counting good time credit.

June 22, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Mother pleads guilty to burning infant son



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Kristin Wesley faces between six and 20 years in prison for burning her 7-week-old son a year ago.

Wesley, 26, of Lafayette pleaded guilty Monday to neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury. She will be sentenced at 3 p.m. July 27 in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2.

During the hearing, she was asked to affirm the charging information that alleged she "knowingly or intentionally" burned her son. She paused to consult with her attorney, saying she didn't knowingly do it and did not know about it until after the fact.

Later in the hearing, Wesley said she was intoxicated on oxymorphone, a pain killer for which she had a prescription. She admitted taking more than the recommended dosage before her son was burned on June 20, 2014.

The infant boy suffered second- and third-degree burns while in her care, according to information presented during the hearing. Neither the probable cause affidavit nor the information in the hearing indicated specifically how the infant was burned.

Her children, the then 7-week-old boy and then 2-year-old daughter, were removed from Wesley's custody and placed with the children's fathers.

The children's stepmothers attended the hearing.

Robyn Furr, stepmother to Wesley's 3-year-old daughter, said, "I'm glad she did ... (plead guilty).

"I thought maybe she'd go to jail today," Furr said.

Instead, Wesley went to probation to schedule an appointment with a probation officer for a pre-sentence interview.

While Wesley's voice cracked with emotion as she responded to questions about her son's burns, Furr had little sympathy.

She said Wesley has hardly made any effort to visit with her children in the past year — a point backed up by reports from the Department of Children Services that were provided to the Journal & Courier. The reports indicated that Wesley regularly missed scheduled supervised visits with her children.

June 22, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Gunman gets 12-year prison sentence



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Joshua Allen found no leniency Monday for shooting another Lafayette man on May 10, 2014 in the 3000 block of Elk Street.

Allen, 23, received eight years for battery by means of a deadly weapon and received an enhanced sentence for unlawful use of a firearm, which added four years to his sentence.

No part of Allen's sentence was suspended, which means he will serve the full 12 years at the Department of Corrections.

Allen had pleaded guilty last month to the charges, and two charges — aggravated battery and battery resulting in serious bodily injury — were dismissed in exchange for his plea, according to court records.

June 22, 2015: WLFTV

James Bixler sentenced 30 years for murdering Rick Couch

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) — James Bixler was sentenced 30 years for the murder of 54-year-old Rick Couch.

Bixler, 26, will spend 27 of those 30 years in the Department of Correction, and he will be under supervised probation for the last three years of his sentence.

Bixler pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter last month. Under Indiana law, voluntary manslaughter is defined as knowingly or intentionally killing another human being while acting under sudden heat.

Last August, Couch was found dead in a home on N. 16th Street. Bixler was taken into custody by police when he was found in the home with blood on his chest and socks.

Bixler eventually admitted to police that he and Couch got into an argument that turned physical. An autopsy showed that Couch had been beaten on his head and that resulted in fatal brain injuries.

After Bixler pleaded guilty last month, part of the deal was a minimum sentence of 25 years and required to serve at least 75 percent. Monday, the judge sentenced him to 30 years after hearing various testimonies from family and friends of both Bixler and Couch.

June 19, 2015: WLFITV

Monticello man convicted of child solicitation after posting online ad

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Tippecanoe County jury has decided the fate of a Monticello man, accused of scheduling a date for sex with a person who he thought was a teenager.

After an hour of deliberation on Wednesday, a jury found 49-year-old Mathias Gaumer guilty of both child solicitation and attempted possession of child pornography.

In February of 2014, a detective sergeant with the Lafayette Police Department discovered an explicit advertisement posted on the internet, seeking underage sex. The officer responded to the ad, under the guise of a teenager.

Gaumer identified himself as the person who posted the ad, and they agreed to meet at a Family Dollar on Teal Road.

That's where an officer with the Lafayette Police Department detained Gaumer, who admitted to investigators that he was planning to have sex with a 14-year old girl.

June 19, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man sentenced to 15 years for home improvement scheme

Samantha Thieke

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Lafayette man who admits to defrauding several elderly residents in a home improvement scheme was sentenced.

Thirty-nine-year-old Eric Farrell pleaded guilty to eight counts of home improvement fraud and theft last month. On Friday, he was sentenced to 15 years behind bars.

As News 18 previously reported, in 2010 Farrell took \$18,000 from an 89-year-old woman with dementia. Other victims were as old as 92.

In one case, victims paid Farrell more than \$33,000 for work a building inspector says cost less than \$10,000.

In addition to the 15 years in the Indiana Department of Corrections, Farrell will serve three years in community corrections. After that he will spend four years on probation— two of which will be supervised.

Once Farrell is released from the Indiana Department of Corrections, he will be ordered to begin paying back the more than \$53,000 in restitution to his victims.

After Friday's sentencing, Farrell was taken to the Tippecanoe County Jail.

June 19, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Monticello man convicted in child sex setup



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

When 49-year-old Mathias Gaumer of Monticello made arrangements online last year for a sexual encounter in Lafayette, he thought he was chatting with a 14-year-old girl.

In reality, the person he arranged to meet at Family Dollar on Teal Road was a police detective.

Gaumer — who had condoms, lubricant and a sex toy on his person when he arrived in Lafayette Feb. 6, 2014 — was convicted by a jury Wednesday of felony child solicitation and attempted possession of child pornography.

He faces two to eight years for the solicitation count, plus six months to three years for the pornography charge.

Gaumer had been tried on the same charges more than a year ago, in May 2014, but the jury failed to reach a verdict, prompting a mistrial.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington said the evidence presented this time was the same as that presented last year.

June 19, 2015: TCPSN

Eric Dale Farrell, 39, of Lafayette, IN was sentence to 22 years for his guilty pleas to Home Improvement Fraud (C Fel), Home Improvement Fraud (D Fel), Home Improvement Fraud (D Fel), Home Improvement Fraud (D Fel), Home Improvement Fraud (D Fel), Theft (D Fel), Home Improvement Fraud (C Fel), and Theft (D Fel). Tippecanoe County Sentence breakdown: IDOC – 15 years, TCCC – 3 years, Supervised Probation – 2 years, Unsupervised Probation – 2 years

June 19, 2015: TCPSN

Mathias D Gaumer, 49, of Monticello, IN was found guilty by a Tippecanoe County jury of Child Solicitation (C Fel) and Attempted Possession of Child Pornography (D Fel) on Wednesday, June 17.

June 17, 2015: TCPSN

Chad Jeremy Balser, 27, has been charged with Battery (Lev 5 Fel), and Battery (A Misd) today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

June 12, 2015: TCPSN

Quay A. Edwards, 65, has been charged with Battery (A Misd), Battery With A Prior Conviction (Lev 5 Fel), and Domestic Battery (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

June 11, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Jury convicts man of molesting 6-year-old girl



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

William Coleman will be sentenced at the end of this month to no less than 20 years, after a jury found him guilty Wednesday of molesting a 6-year-old girl.

Coleman, 45, was staying overnight on a Lafayette family's couch in 2012 when he slipped into the child's room, knelt beside her bed and touched her inappropriately, according to the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

Coleman faces two to eight years for fondling the girl and 20 to 50 years for digital penetration.

Sentencing is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. June 29 in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2.

June 10, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Reported assault yields 7 charges for attacker

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Prosecutors charged James Levi Goodner with five felonies and two misdemeanors, accusing the 22-year-old Sheridan man of holding his ex-girlfriend against her will and beating her.

Goodner stayed at his ex-girlfriend's West Lafayette apartment on Yeager Road starting on June 3. On Friday, the two argued, and Goodner punched his ex-girlfriend, according to the probable cause affidavit describing the beginning of a night of torture. He wouldn't let her out of the bedroom, and eventually ended up tying her up and gagging her, prosecutors allege.

He strangled his 22-year-old victim, causing her to lose consciousness, according to the affidavit. He hit her with his fist and other objects, as well as kicked her, according to the affidavit. He also burned her with cigarettes, bit her and threatened her with a knife, according to charging information.

Goodner faces two felony charges of criminal confinement, as well as felony charges of intimidation, battery and strangulation. He also faces misdemeanor charges of resisting law enforcement and possession of marijuana.

Goodner ended his terror over his victim when her father came to her apartment around noon Saturday to check on her. Goodner allowed her to answer the door, and she raced to her father, who told Goodner to get out.

Police later found Goodner hiding in bushes behind some businesses on Sagamore Parkway, but he ran. A short time later, another West Lafayette police officer found Goodner, but officers had to use a tazer to subdue him, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Goodner remains incarcerated at the Tippecanoe County Jail.

June 10, 2015: TCPSN

William Coleman, 45, was found guilty today by a Tippecanoe County, IN jury of Child Molestation (A Fel) and Child Molestation (C Fel). The sentence range is 20-50 years. Sentencing is scheduled for June 29, 2015 at 11:30am.

June 10, 2015: WISHTV

Lab used to make marijuana 'wax' found amid large bust

"The greater picture here is that individuals are using volatile substances to create a different form of marijuana and people are dying from it as a result of this," Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said.

By Bennett Haeberle

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) — As a cadre of narcotics officers raided the largest marijuana grow operation in Indiana history, they discovered roughly 500 marijuana plants, 50 pounds of marijuana, \$40,000 cash and a THC extraction lab used to make "honey oil."

It also known as wax, 710, marijuana oil or budder, according to the DEA.

While the bust certainly disrupted a large drug operation, it's the latter of those discoveries that is concerning to DEA officials and local prosecutors in Indiana. Four unidentified people were taken into federal custody, according to Indiana State Police, who said the arrests involved people from both Indianapolis and the Batesville area.

"It's in three separate rooms. They are making honey oil here, a large amount," said Master Trooper Dan Madison with Indiana State Police.

According to a DEA source, the THC extraction labs can be highly volatile because they often require heat from a propane or butane torch to help extract the oil from marijuana. Through a process that combines marijuana, solvents and heat, users can create both marijuana oil or wax, which is said to be four to five times more potent than traditional marijuana, according to DEA resources.

It can also be dangerous – even deadly.

In April, 32-year old Brandon Abbott was sentenced to 70 years in prison for neglect of a dependent resulting in death after a fire at his Tippecanoe County home killed his three-year-old twin boys. Court records show the boys suffered burns and suffocated in the fire. While the cause of the fire was undetermined, authorities discovered a pill grinder, marijuana and an exploded propane container inside the home. Abbott denied that he smoked "wax" that night, but did admit to doing it earlier in the week and taking Ecstasy the day before he picked his kids up for his custodial visitation.

"The greater picture here is that individuals are using volatile substances to create a different form of marijuana and people are dying from it as a result of this," Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said during an April interview with our sister station, WLFI.

While there were no reported fires at Wednesday's bust in Indianapolis, Master Trooper Madison said that the wax is popular in states like California and Colorado, where marijuana is either legal or largely decriminalized.

In Colorado, which fully legalized both recreational and medical marijuana in 2013, law enforcement data shows explosions have grown from two in 2009 to 32 in 2014.

“Unfortunately it takes terrible incidents to get folks attention,” according to David Powell with Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council. “You hate for people to die or get hurt before people start paying attention to this concern.”

Powell said he plans to again ask the Indiana legislature to support a bill that would enhance the penalties for those caught making “wax.”

He said a similar push last year died, but he was lobbying for it after a massive overall of Indiana’s criminal code reduced the penalties for drug-related crimes.

June 10, 2015: TCPSN

James Levi Goodner, 22, of Sheridan, IN was charged today with Criminal Confinement While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 3 Fel), Criminal Confinement Resulting in Bodily Injury (Lev 5 Fel), Intimidation – Drawing or Using a Deadly Weapon (Lev 5 Fel), Battery (Lev 6 Fel), Strangulation (Lev 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd), and Possession of Marijuana (B Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office.

June 6, 2015: Lakeshore Public Media

30 LAWS IN 30 DAYS: FIGHTING CHILD EXPLOITATION IN INDIANA

By: Amanda Creech, TheStatehousefile.com

Editor’s Note: TheStatehouseFile.com is presenting a month-long series of stories on new Indiana laws that take effect on July 1.

INDIANAPOLIS – A new law could mean young prostitutes are treated more like victims than criminals in an effort to save some from exploitation.

House Bill 1216 – passed in April – provides a defense to the crime of prostitution if the victim was under 18 and is found to be a victim of human trafficking at the time the crime was committed.

The bill also provides new resources for families dealing with cases of missing or trafficked children.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said the goal of this law is not to criminalize victims.

“The purpose of the law is we want to help give these children a good life, away from a life of being abused and mistreated and help them as a victim as opposed to getting arrested,” Harrington said. “We’re going to treat [them] like a victim and provide [them] with a safe space to be.”

Rep. Randy Truitt, R-West Lafayette, authored the legislation after Harrington brought the issues to his attention. Truitt said the bill dovetailed with a larger effort by the legislature to improve public safety. And he said he was happy to see this legislation pass both chambers with bipartisan support.

Harrington, who has been the Tippecanoe prosecutor for nine years, said he became more interested in the issue after “a few years ago several children were being trafficked, either into prostitution or involuntary labor. He said the current law did not allow the prosecutor’s office to classify those who were arrested as a victim.

The new law will help those children who are being trafficked, in part by bringing the victims to the attention of the Indiana Department of Child Services, he said.

“Given the number of children that run away from home, they are very easy targets for sex-traffickers to prey on,” he said. “This law allows them to be treated as a victim, it allows for DCS to become involved and take legal custody over the child and it allows them to get off the streets.”

Harrington also said those involved in trafficking give children fake IDs, which complicates the case when they are picked up by police. The National Runaway Safeline says the average age of their callers is 16. Harrington said most of the children involved in trafficking are about 16 or 17.

The legislation will police to provide pamphlets from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Safeline to families who report missing children.

The group reported that in April, it have received more than 4.3 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation through its CyberTipline. Those reports are then sent to law enforcement.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children also provides services to families who have missing children.

“A missing child can be an extremely difficult time for any family,” Truitt said. “So it is important that we ensure that they have information and resources available to help them through this challenging situation.”

Amanda Creech is a reporter for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

June 5, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Two men face felony charges for burglary;

They have been accused of burglary and theft in connection with a string of house and vehicle robberies in West Lafayette.

Taya Flores tflores@jonline.com

Two men face felony and misdemeanor charges in connection to a string of house and vehicle robberies that occurred in West Lafayette in late May.

Charles Vorice, 19, of West Lafayette and Chaz Kruger, 18, of Lafayette were charged with two felonies for conspiring to commit a burglary and burglarizing a home in the University Farm subdivision in West Lafayette.

They also face four lesser misdemeanor charges of theft for stealing items, including a workbag, purse, iPhone and iPad.

West Lafayette police officers responded to a report of theft shortly after 9 a.m. May 25 at a home in University Farm subdivision. A female resident reported that a workbag had been stolen from her vehicle, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Shortly after noon that day, West Lafayette police responded to a burglary report at another residence in University Farms, according to the probable cause affidavit and police incident log.

A male resident reported that someone broke into the home and stole his wallet and his wife's purse. The items were sitting in a front room inside the house.

Chaz Kruger, 18, of Lafayette (pictured) and Charles Vorice, 19, of West Lafayette were charged with two felonies for conspiring to commit a burglary and burglarizing a home in the University Farm subdivision in West Lafayette. (Photo: Photo provided)

The wallet and purse contained driver's licenses, credit cards and cash.

Tippecanoe County sheriff's deputies found the stolen items during another investigation involving the theft of an iPad and iPhone. Those items were stolen May 29 or 30 from a vehicle in Lafayette.

Deputies tracked the iPhone to the 100 block of Pine Avenue in West Lafayette, where they found the stolen items from the University Farms residence and car in a green tote on the back porch.

A female resident of the Pine Avenue house told deputies Vorice and Kruger were responsible for the stolen items, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Deputies interviewed the two men after they returned to the Pine Avenue residence. The men told the female resident where to find the iPad and iPhone. She retrieved the items from inside the house and gave them to deputies, who then returned them to the owner.

The items stolen from University Farms residence and car also were returned.

Vorice told deputies and detectives that he and Kruger broke into at least 10 cars, according to the probable cause affidavit.

June 5, 2015: WLFITV

Soloman's attorney: Motion filed for competency evaluation

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) — Lawyers for a Lafayette woman charged with not reporting her husband's death believe she may not be competent to stand trial.

Friday, Ila Solomon's lawyer filed a motion to have her evaluated to determine her competency.

According to court documents, the defense says there are reasonable grounds to believe that Solomon lacks the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of her defense.

Solomon is accused of keeping Gerald "Scooter" Gavan's body inside their home on Shawnee Avenue for nine months after his death. His body was discovered last year.

Solomon faces nine criminal charges, including failure to report a dead body, welfare fraud and theft.

Her trial is expected to begin later this month.

June 5, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Court orders competency tests for widow

Ila Solomon's defense attorney filed motion for evaluation to determine competency to stand trial.

Taya Flores tflores@jconline.com

Ila Solomon's attorney Kevin O'Reilly filed a motion Thursday for evaluation to determine whether she is competent to stand trial.

Solomon is accused of welfare fraud for allegedly continuing to accept payments made to her late husband, 88-year-old Gerald "Scooter" Gavan Jr.

The 55-year-old Lafayette woman insists that Gavan died of a stroke five days before his severely decomposed body was discovered May 3, 2014, on their living room carpet.

The Tippecanoe County Coroner's Office, however, determined that Gavan lay dead more than nine months — no later than July 15 of the previous year.

Solomon has not disclosed why she didn't report the veteran's death to authorities. She has said, however, that Gavan told her he wanted his body put on a hillside for birds to eat so he could experience a "bird's-eye view" in death.

Even now, the widow holds to her story. She came to her pre-trial conference Friday with Superior Court 2 Judge Steven Meyer outfitted with a handbag and poster featuring images of Scooter.

She said the idea of having one's body eaten by birds after death is not crazy but reflects a different tradition.

"You can go to Texas and be eaten by birds in Texas," she said.

Solomon has admitted that the government reclaimed 10 months of payments — more than \$20,000 in Social Security benefits and Gavan's military pension. The time frame is consistent with Gavan's legal date of death, not Solomon's claim of five days.

The motion states "there is reasonable grounds to believe that (Solomon) lacks the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of a defense."

It calls for two psychiatrists or psychologists to examine Solomon and report on her competence to stand trial.

Meyer granted the motion and appointed Dr. Jeffrey Wendt and Dr. Vernon Little to examine Solomon and file written reports.

A trial date was set for June 23, but the evaluation will postpone it, O'Reilly said after the hearing Friday. A status hearing to determine the trial date has been set for July 10.

When asked whether he thought Solomon was competent, O'Reilly said, "I don't know. I'm asking the court to decide that."

Solomon disagreed with her attorney's motion.

"I think he is playing to the media," she said.

She also said she did not commit fraud.

"The money was all paid back, but the biggest thing is Scooter was alive," she said. "That is what the argument is about."

June 5, 2015: WLFITV

2 men charged in WL subdivision break-ins

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Two young men have now been charged with breaking into several homes at the University Farms subdivision.

Six charges were brought against Charles Vorice, 19, and Chaz Kruger, 18 including theft and burglary charges.

According to court documents, Vorice and Kruger entered a home in West Lafayette and allegedly stole a wallet and a purse.

Vorice also admitted to detectives he and Kruger entered at least 10 unlocked cars looking for money and items to sell.

June 5, 2015: TCPSN

Ryan P. Zipfel, 25, of Lafayette, Indiana has been charged with Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated Causing Death (Lev 5 Fel), Operating a Vehicle with a BAC Greater Than 0.08% Causing Death (Lev 5 Fel), False Informing (B Misd), Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated Causing Death While Having a Prior Conviction for Operating While Intoxicated (Lev 4 Fel), and Operating a Vehicle with a BAC Greater Than 0.08% Causing Death While Having a Prior Conviction for Operating While Intoxicated (Lev 4 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

June 5, 2015: TCPSN

Co-defendants Chaz C. Kruger & Charles D. Vorce have been charged with Burglary (Lev 4 Fel), Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (Lev 4 Fel), Conspiracy to Commit Theft (A Misd), and three (3) counts of Theft (A Misd), by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

June 4, 2015: WLFITV

Cocaine dealer gets 15-year prison sentence



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFITV) – Deborah Reagin, 54, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for dealing cocaine.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington tells News 18 that her charges date back more than a year to October and December of 2013. Reagin sold cocaine and heroin to an undercover officer on two occasions, once near Tecumseh Middle School and once near Miller Elementary School.

Reagin was also sentenced to one year of supervised probation.

June 3, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette man faces six felony drug charges

Hannah Smith Kiefer hsmith@jconline.com

Roderick Gardner Moore III, 31, of Lafayette faces six felony charges for dealing controlled substances near school property.

Moore has been charged with dealing in anabolic steroids, possession of anabolic steroids near school property, dealing in marijuana, possession of more than 30 grams of marijuana, maintaining a common nuisance, and possession of a syringe intended for drug use.

He faces a lesser misdemeanor charge for possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to the probable cause affidavit, West Lafayette police officers found Moore during a traffic stop on April 19. Moore had a handgun, which was secured by officers. A K-9 dog alerted officers to drugs in the car, and the car was searched.

Inside the car, officers found a jar of marijuana in the center console. In the trunk, officers found seven packages of raw marijuana and three packages of jars of marijuana.

A search warrant was obtained for Moore's apartment in the 1100 block of Tippecanoe Street in Lafayette. There officers found anabolic steroids, about 165 grams of marijuana, marijuana pipes, a marijuana grinder, scales and syringes. Officers also found other assorted drugs and a loaded rifle.

Moore's residence is within 1,000 feet of several school properties, including St. James School, as well as several family housing complexes. The residence also is near the former Washington Elementary School, which supports Lafayette Adult Resource Academy classes and will in the future house Oakland High School students.

June 3, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Two suspects from AT&T store robbery charged

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Terry Henton and Jenna Forney, the suspects in the May 27 robbery at the AT&T cellphone store, were formally charged Wednesday.

Henton, 30, of Indianapolis is charged with three felonies — robbery, conspiracy to commit theft and two counts of theft. One theft charge is from May 15, when he ran into the same AT&T store and stole two phones from the display stand.

Forney, 37, of Indianapolis is charged with conspiracy to commit theft and theft, both felonies.

Henton ran into the AT&T store on Sagamore Parkway South about 7:50 p.m. May 27 and snatched four phones from the display stand, then he grabbed a phone from a sales associate before running out the door, according to the probable cause affidavit and previous J&C reports.

Henton ran to a PT Cruiser, where Forney was waiting for him, and the two drove away, heading south on Sagamore Parkway, according to the probable cause affidavit. Police stopped the car on Concord Road, and store employees identified Henton.

Police also found the five stolen phones in the car, according to the affidavit.

The two also are suspected of similar thefts in Carmel and Anderson, according to the probable cause affidavit.

June 3, 2015: TCPSN

Co-defendants Terry Paul Henton, 30, and Jenna Marie Forney, 37, both of Indianapolis, IN were charged with Conspiracy to Commit Theft (Lev 6 Fel), and Theft (Lev 6 Fel). Forney faces an additional count of Theft (Lev 6 Fel). All charges were filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

June 3, 2015: TCPSN

Roderick Gardner Moore, 31, has been charged with Dealing in a Schedule III Controlled Substance – Anabolic Steroids (B Fel), Possession of a Schedule II Controlled Substance – Anabolic Steroids (C Fel), Dealing in Marijuana (D Fel), Possession of Marijuana (D Fel), Possession of a Syringe (D Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

June 1, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Police: Man choked partner, battered child

Joseph Paul, jpaull@jconline.com

A Lafayette man was arrested for choking his partner and sending his child to the hospital during a domestic incident early Sunday morning, according to police.

Sgt. Bob Baumgartner of the Lafayette Police Department said Raymond Alexander, 20, at one point choked the mother of his child during a domestic battery, later grabbing his child by the arm to exit the residence in the 2300 block of Osage Court.

On the way out, the child hit his or her head on the door frame and was later treated and released from a local hospital with no serious injuries, Baumgartner said.

Alexander was booked into Tippecanoe County Jail and preliminarily charged with battery by means of strangulation, domestic battery in presence of a child, neglect of a dependent and battery resulting in bodily injury.

Baumgartner said arrest information indicates the suspect was not intoxicated and there were no signs of neglect within the home.

June 1, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man used gun to intimidate; sentenced to 1 year



Joseph Paul, jpaul@jconline.com

A Lafayette man received a two-year sentence Friday for intimidating a victim while armed with a handgun in February.

Gino Jones, 32, will serve one year in the Indiana Department of Correction and one year on probation after pleading guilty in April to charges of carrying a handgun without a license, false informing and criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon, according to sentencing information.

Jones also must complete a parenting class, a character restoration class and a substance abuse evaluation under the plea agreement.

Jones was arrested in February after a victim told investigators he heard shots fired on Sickie Court and was confronted by a man who threatened him and displayed a handgun.

Police said shell casings were found in the area and the investigation led to a house in the 900 block of Julia Lane, where police arrested Jones and found a handgun.

May 29, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged after allegedly holding knife to woman's throat

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Lafayette man faces serious accusations, including holding a knife to a woman's neck and threatening to kill her.

Steven Freeman, 47, is charged with felony intimidation and battery with a deadly weapon. The charges stem from an incident at an apartment on Greenbush Street on Sunday.

Lafayette police say when they arrived at the scene, the alleged victim showed them the knife and it had a clump of hair stuck to the blade. Officers said she feared Freeman was going to kill her, so she locked herself in the bathroom and called 911.

Freeman is in the Tippecanoe County Jail.

May 29, 2015: TCPSN

Randy Allen Farrell, 26, has been charged with Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon (Lev 4 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and Habitual Offender Enhancement by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 29, 2015: TCPSN

Steven Bradly Freeman, 47, has been charged with Battery Committed While Armed With a Deadly Weapon (Lev 5 Fel), Intimidation-Drawing or Using a Deadly Weapon (Lev 5 Fel), Domestic Battery (A Misd), by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 28, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Three Odoms charged with three CVS robberies

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Prosecutors accused the Odom gang — two brothers and their wives — of three robberies at the CVS pharmacy at the corner of Old U.S. 231 and Beck Lane.

Jeffrey Alan Odom, 44, along with his brother, Kevin Michael Odom, 46, and their wives, Temple Angela Odom, 38, and Theresa Ann Odom, 40, all of Hillsboro, were all charged with conspiracy to commit robbery, Level 5 felonies, two counts of robbery, Level 5 felonies, two counts of theft, Level 6 felonies, and two counts of possession of a narcotic drug, Level 3 felonies.

Kevin Michael Odom (Photo: Photo provided/Tippecanoe County Jail)

These charges are from the April 18 and May 17 robberies, during which Temple Odom is accused of presenting a note to the pharmacist demanding pain-killing narcotics and declaring she had a gun. After the robberies, she ran to a pickup truck where the other the three Odoms were waiting, according to the probable cause affidavit. When they couples were safely home, they split the narcotics among themselves, according to the affidavit.

After the May 17 robbery, Jeff Odom wrecked his pickup truck in Montgomery County, and most of the Oxycodone stolen from the pharmacy was confiscated for evidence in that county's investigation, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Temple Angela Odom (Photo: Photo provided/Tippecanoe County Jail)

On May 23, Kevin Odom, Jeff Odom and Temple Odom tried to rob the same pharmacy, but after the robbery, Temple Odom was caught by Lafayette police as she tried to run to the pickup truck. The rest of the Odoms were soon in custody.

For the robbery over Memorial Day weekend, Jeff Odom, Kevin Odom and Temple Odom are charged with robbery, Level 5 felonies, theft, Level 6 felonies, possession of narcotic drugs, Level 3 felonies, and possession of narcotic drugs, Level 6 felonies.

May 28, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man charged in vacuum cleaner scam

Chris Morisse Vizza and Ron Wilkins

Prosecutors accused Scott Robert Bedford of using his knowledge of Kirby Risk vacuums to con people out of their money and vacuums.

Bedford, 47, of West Lafayette faces eight felony counts filed Thursday by prosecutors. He is charged with seven counts of theft and one count of corrupt business influence, according to court documents.

Bedford, a former Kirby vacuum salesman, is accused of telling previous customers that their machines had been recalled for mechanical problems that would be fixed for free. He also would make cold-call sales, selling the unsuspecting victims vacuums he never delivered.

Lafayette police Detective Patrick Dempster said the victims were senior citizens, with the youngest being in her 60s.

One victim told investigators that Bedford took her machine on March 9. By April 8, however, the vacuum cleaner had not been returned and Bedford wasn't answering the victim's phone calls.

Bedford later told investigators he believed he pawned the vacuum cleaner in Greencastle, according to an affidavit of probable cause.

After taking vacuums for "repairs," Dempster said Bedford would use them in his con. Tippecanoe County is not the only place Bedford has plied his scam — he's been picked up in other counties and in Illinois, Dempster said.

Currently, Bedford is not in police custody here.

Dempster cautioned that there are honest Kirby Risk sales people selling vacuums in the area. He suggested that potential customers ask a sales person for a supervisor's name and phone number and call before investing time or money.

May 28, 2015: WLFITV

Former vacuum salesman charged with theft

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Formal charges have been filed against a West Lafayette man accused of ripping off several people — while pretending to sell them Kirby vacuums.

Prosecutors have charged 47-year old Scott Bedford with seven counts of felony theft. They say he established a pattern of racketeering activity by taking money for Kirby vacuums, but never actually delivering the goods.

The incidents took place in late March and throughout April.

The victims reported losing money ranging from several hundred to a few thousand dollars.

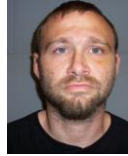
May 28, 2015: TCPSN

Kevin Michael Odom, 46, Temple Angela Odom, 38, Theresa Ann Odom, 40, and Jeffrey Alan Odom, 44, all from Hillsboro, Indiana were charged with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery (Lev 5 Fel), Robbery (Lev 5 Fel), Theft (Lev 6 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug — Oxycodone (Level 3 Fel), Robbery (Lev 5 Fel), Theft (A Misd), Possession of a Narcotic Drug — Oxycodone (Lev 5 Fel), and Robbery (Lev 5 Fel).

Additionally, Kevin Michael Odom, Temple Angela Odom, and Jeffrey Alan Odom were charged with Robbery (Lev 5 Fel), Theft (Level 6 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug — Oxycodone (Lev 3 Fel), and Possession of a Narcotic Drug — Oxymorphone (Lev 6 Fel).

These charges involve the robberies of the CVS store on 231. All charges were filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

Man gets 13 years for robbing Burger King



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFITV) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 12 years in prison for robbing a Burger King and locking the employees in the refrigerator.

Robert Beliles, 33, was also sentenced to one year supervised probation after pleading guilty last month to robbery while armed with a deadly weapon.

The robbery happened last October at the Burger King on Old U.S. 231. While two employees were locked into a walk-in refrigerator, a third employee was able to run to a nearby gas station to call 911.

According to court documents, the robber asked for the assistant manager by name. A manager told investigators the robber could be Beliles, who is a former employee.

Beliles later told prosecutors he robbed the Burger King to get money for drugs.

May 27, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Purdue Sigma Nu member sentenced to four years



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Eric Todderud, a Sigma Nu fraternity member, received a four-year sentence Wednesday for his battery of two guests at the frat house near Purdue University on Sept. 13, 2013, and an unrelated vandalism of a car last fall.

Todderud, 22, of Fishers pleaded guilty in April to criminal recklessness resulting in serious bodily injury and two misdemeanors — battery resulting in bodily injury and criminal mischief.

Todderud will serve three of the four years. Tippecanoe Superior 1 Judge Randy Williams ordered Todderud to spend 420 days in the Indiana Department of Correction, 365 days at the community correction facility and 310 days on probation. Williams ordered a one-year sentence for criminal mischief to be served consecutively with the other sentences, which amounts to a three-year sentence.

The night of Sept. 13, 2013, Todderud attacked two guests at the Sigma Nu house, punching one so hard that he had to have three teeth extracted and suffered from headaches for three months after the attack.

Then on Oct. 1, 2014, Purdue police caught Todderud vandalizing a car parked at Pierce and Harrison streets.

Additionally, Todderud is ordered to pay restitution of \$10,801.21 to his battery victim, and \$6,494.38 to the car owner's insurance company.

The national Sigma Nu organization suspended the Purdue chapter in March for acts of hazing, illegal drug use and alcohol consumption by minors in fall 2014.

May 27, 2015: TCPSN

Robert Lee Beliles, 33, was sentenced today to 13 years for his guilty plea to Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 3 Fel). Sentence breakdown: IDOC 12 years - programs: any available substance abuse treatment; Supervised Probation 1 year

May 27, 2015: TCPSN

Heath Lamont Burgess, 37, was charged with Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd), False Informing (A Misd), Carrying a Handgun While Having a Prior Felony Conviction (Lev 5 Fel), and Habitual Offender Enhancement today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 26, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Ex-teacher to plead guilty to child seduction



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A former McCutcheon High School physical education teacher plans to admit that he engaged in a months-long sexual relationship with a 16-year-old student.

Defense attorney Brian Dekker confirmed Tuesday that his client, 37-year-old Jake Robinson, intends to plead guilty June 25 to all five felony counts of child seduction without the benefit of a plea agreement.

The upcoming guilty plea hearing was scheduled Friday in Tippecanoe Superior Court 2, where Robinson appeared for a pretrial conference.

May 24, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man faces felony drug charges

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Lafayette man faces four felony charges after Indiana State Police said they were alerted of a suspicious package addressed to the man.

According to court documents, on Sept. 24, 2013, police were alerted by a local commercial parcel carrier of a suspicious package addressed to 29-year-old Lafayette resident Adam Greer. After a K-9 officer alerted police to a narcotic odor, a search warrant was obtained for the package. Inside the package, police found nearly two pounds of marijuana.

That same day, officers went to the home addressed on the package. Court documents said a man identifying himself as Adam Greer answered the door. After allegedly smelling the odor of raw marijuana coming from inside the home, officers obtained a search warrant.

A Lafayette woman, 29-year-old Jessica Rubesch, was also inside the residence at the time. Both Greer and Rubesch were detained while police searched the home.

Upon searching the residence, officers said they found numerous bottles containing liquid substances. Labels on the bottles identified the contents anabolic steroids. Police also allegedly found baggies of marijuana, scales, syringes, money and several firearms.

Greer's cellphone was also examined by investigators and had numerous messages discussing prices and quantities of controlled substances including steroids, marijuana and hash. The messages also discussed their availability for purchase or sale.

Greer faces four felony charges including dealing in a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of a syringe and maintaining a common nuisance. He also faces one misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.

Rubesch faces three felony charges of possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of a syringe and maintaining a common nuisance. She also faces one misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana.

Both Greer and Rubesch are out of jail on bond. An initial hearing has been scheduled for Friday.

May 24, 2015: WLFITV

Man arrested after allegedly beating girlfriend in front of child

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFITV) – A Lafayette man was arrested last week for allegedly beating his girlfriend in front of their child.

Court documents said 32-year-old Steven Barber faces four felonies charges of battery resulting in bodily injury to a public safety official, domestic battery, criminal confinement and resisting law enforcement. He faces a misdemeanor charge of battery.

According to the affidavit, Barber beat his girlfriend in front of his child on May 19. Police said Barber's girlfriend said he held her down, punched her in the chin and face with a closed fist. When she tried to get away, he bit her on the upper right shoulder. After the alleged beating, court documents said he took his girlfriend's purse, got into his vehicle and left the area.

Officers said they found him later that same day at a residence in Lafayette. Police said he resisted arrest and broke away a number of times. Officers claim Barber kicked a police officer in the groin twice during the struggle and ran into a residence. Barber was eventually convinced to exit the residence, handcuffed and taken to the Tippecanoe County Jail.

Barber posted bail and has since been released.

A jury trial has been set for Aug. 8.

May 23, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Lafayette woman faces charges for stealing laptop

She faces three felonies: burglary, residential entry and theft.

Taya Flores, tflores@jconline.com

Nicole Bowen, 26, of Lafayette faces three felony charges that allege she stole a laptop computer June 14, 2013, from a friend's home.

She faces three felonies: burglary, residential entry and theft.

Bowen is accused of stealing the laptop from the home of Kelsey Wright, who considered Bowen “an old friend,” according to a probable cause affidavit.

Bowen showed up at Wright’s house on Franklin Street about 4 p.m. the day of the burglary. She continually asked to use Wright’s laptop computer, but Wright refused.

About 20 minutes after Bowen left, Wright and her boyfriend also left the residence.

When they returned about 6:10 p.m., they found the back window into her kitchen had been opened and a cabinet was moved to allow entry.

Wright said she suspected Bowen, who she knew had a drug abuse problem, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Lafayette police were able to match fingerprints lifted off the open window to Bowen’s fingerprints.

Bowen admitted to being at Wright’s home but denied stealing the laptop.

She told police she and her husband had previously lived with Wright in 2011, until being kicked out.

Wright said police were called to the home after an altercation with Bowen, who had become intoxicated and belligerent.

Lafayette police responded to a call at the residence April 11, 2012. Bowen left the house at that time, according to the probable cause affidavit.

Bowen said her fingerprints were on the window because she and her husband had to climb through a side window once when they were locked out.

Wright said she was not aware of any occasion when Bowen had to enter the house through a window and the window had been washed since Bowen moved out.

Bowen is being held at Tippecanoe County Jail in lieu of \$12,500 surety plus \$1,250 cash bond.

May 22, 2015: TCPSN

Nicole Lynn Brown, 26, was charged today with Burglary (B Fel), Residential Entry (D Fel), and Theft (D Fel), by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office.

May 22, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Knife-wielding husband earns 6-year sentence



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Sicari Strickland was sentenced Thursday to six years in prison for stabbing a man who intervened in a confrontation between Strickland and his estranged wife, who had filed for divorce two months prior.

Lafayette police were dispatched about 8 p.m. Oct. 5 to an apartment complex in the 3000 block of Cernan Court, where they found the wounded victim lying on the ground outside.

Strickland, who reportedly tracked his wife to a friend's apartment, stabbed the man with a kitchen knife after entering the apartment without permission and being asked to leave.

The victim and Strickland exchanged heated words and began pushing each other before the stabbing, according to the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

Witnesses described the wound as a small puncture to the man's lower abdomen.

Strickland had been charged with three felonies. He pleaded guilty last month to the lead charge, battery by means of a deadly weapon.

He was sentenced to the maximum: six years in an Indiana prison.

Strickland's criminal history includes convictions for dealing cocaine, aggravated battery, operating while intoxicated, public intoxication and residential entry.

May 22, 2015: TCPSN

Sicari Samson Strickland, 27, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced to 6 yrs. at the IDOC for his guilty plea to Battery by Means of a Deadly Weapon (Lev 5 Fel).

May 21, 2015: WLFITV

Escape suspect faces 4 new felony charges

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — Marcus Bramlett, accused of attacking a Tippecanoe County sheriff's deputy and stealing her squad car last week, faces four additional felony charges.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors charged Bramlett Thursday with robbery, escape, battery resulting in bodily injury to a public safety official and disarming a law enforcement officer.

According to court documents, Bramlett admitted to attacking Deputy Jennifer Thompson on May 15 as she was driving him back to the Tippecanoe County Jail from a medical appointment at St. Elizabeth East Hospital.

While driving, Thompson felt Bramlett yanking on her weapon. As she was trying to stop him from getting her gun, Bramlett started punching her in the face. Thompson was able to stop the patrol car and get out. That's when Bramlett took off.

Prosecutors said following his arrest late Saturday night, Bramlett admitted to police that he decided to escape during the car ride back to the jail.

Bramlett also faces five felony charges in Warren County, where he allegedly ditched the Tippecanoe County sheriff's car and stole another car from a resident at gunpoint.

Bramlett told investigators when he crashed the stolen car from Warren County in Lafayette, he called a friend and went to a house. That's where he was taken into custody after a standoff.

Initially, Bramlett was in custody facing preliminary charges of battery resulting in bodily injury of law enforcement and resisting law enforcement.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors said Bramlett's prior convictions include a burglary conviction in St. Joseph County in 2010 and a conviction for unlawful possession of a syringe in Clark County in 2014.

Bramlett is currently at St. Elizabeth East Hospital, where he's being treated for self-inflicted head wounds suffered during a fall at the Tippecanoe County Jail on Monday of this week. Sheriff Barry Richard says he's expected to remain there until Friday.

May 20, 2015: TCPSN

Adam Robert Greer, 29, has been charged with Dealing in a Schedule III Controlled Substance - Anabolic Steroids (C Fel), Possession of a Schedule III Controlled Substance - Anabolic Steroids (D Fel), Possession of Marijuana (A Misd), Possession of a Syringe (D Fel), and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D Fel).

Co-Defendant Jessica Jeann Rubesch, 29, has been charged with Possession of a Schedule III Controlled Substance - Anabolic Steroids (D Fel), Possession of Marijuana (A Misd), Possession of a Syringe (D Fel), and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D Fel).

All charges were filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 20, 2015: TCPSN

Robert W. James, 38, was charged today with Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 4 Fel), Dealing in Methamphetamine (Lev 4 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 6 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Lev 6 Fel), Possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance – LSD (A Misd), Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance – Clonazepam (A Misd), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 20, 2015: TCPSN

Patrick S Norman, 32, was charged today with Dealing in Methamphetamine (Lev 4 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 6 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Lev 6 Fel), Possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance – LSD (A Misd), Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance – Xanax (A Misd), and Habitual Offender Enhancement by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 20, 2015: TCPSN

Steven Derelle Barber, 32, was charged today with Battery Resulting in Bodily Injury to a Public Safety Official While the Official is Engaged in Their Official Duties (Lev 5 Fel), Domestic Battery Committed in the Physical Presence of a Child Less than 16 Years of Age (Lev 6 Fel), Battery (A Misd), Criminal Confinement (Lev 6 Fel), and Resisting Law Enforcement (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 20, 2015: TCPSN

Lindsey Renee Hogg, of Monticello, IN, was sentenced to 6 years today for her guilty pleas to Theft (D Fel) and four (4) counts of Theft (A Misd). All criminal charges were purse snatchings - victims: age 83 at Walmart (Commerce Drive), age 89 at Meijer (Lafayette), age 73 at Payless (Maple Point Drive), age 72 at Walmart (Veterans Mem. Pkwy.) and age 64 at Walmart (Commerce Drive). Sentence breakdown: 4 years executed - 2 years in IDOC - final 2 years on TCCC (if defendant qualifies); 2 years suspended on supervised probation

May 19, 2015: TCPSN

Latroy Dontae Maxwell, 28, has been charged with Rape (Lev 1 Fel), Rape (Lev 3 Fe), Criminal Confinement (Lev 3 Fel), Sexual Battery (Lev 6 Fel), Strangulation (Lev 6 Fel), Domestic Battery (Lev 6 Fel), Invasion of Privacy (A Misd), and Invasion of Privacy (A Misd), today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 18, 2015: TCPSN

Eric D. Farrell, 39, of Lafayette, IN pled guilty to the following charges today without the benefit of a plea agreement. His trial was set to begin tomorrow.

Count I: Home Improvement Fraud (FC) - October - December 2010 - over 60 + over \$10k

Count II: Home Improvement Fraud (FD) - September - October 2013 - over 60 + over \$4k less than \$7k

Count III: Home Improvement Fraud (FD) - March 2014 - over 60 + under \$10k

Count IV: Home Improvement Fraud (FD) - 11/29 /12 - 11/30/12 - over 60 + over \$4k less than \$7k

Count V: Home Improvement Fraud (FD) - December 2011 - January 2012 - over 60 + over \$4k less than \$7k
Count VI: Theft (FD) - November 30, 2012
Count VII: Home Improvement Fraud (FC) - 11/20/09 - 12/4/09 - over 60 + over \$10k
Count VIII: Theft (FD) - 11/20/09 - 12/4/09

May 18, 2015: WLFITV

Judge sets \$500K bond for man considered 'flight risk'

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A man who attacked a Tippecanoe County sheriff's deputy and stole her marked vehicle made his initial court appearance Monday.

Tippecanoe County Magistrate Daniel Moore placed a 72-hour hold on the case involving 25-year-old Marcus Bramlett. Therefore, formal charges will need to be filed by Thursday at 2 p.m.

Moore also set a \$500,000 surety bond, saying Bramlett is "considered a flight risk."

As News 18 previously reported, the incident started Friday evening when Bramlett allegedly attacked a sheriff's deputy and stole her marked vehicle. The abandoned squad car was found Saturday morning in Attica, Ind. by the Warren County Sheriff's Office.

According to investigators, Bramlett broke into a home and stole some items including another vehicle. He drove back to Lafayette where he was involved in a hit-and-run crash.

Saturday night, Lafayette police located Bramlett in a home on S. Third Street. About two hours later, Bramlett was taken into custody without incident.

He is currently being held in the Tippecanoe County Jail on the new surety bond of \$500,000.

Tippecanoe County Jail staff told News 18 Bramlett was booked on preliminary charges of disarming law enforcement while resisting arrest, battery resulting in injury of law enforcement, auto theft and escaping while drawing or using a weapon.

Warren County Prosecutor John Larson says he plans to file charges on Bramlett as well. Those relating to him abandoning the deputy's vehicle in Warren County, then breaking into a nearby home and stealing another car.

May 18, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Handyman admits to scamming customers



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Eric D. Farrell admitted Monday he conned elderly Tippecanoe County residents out of tens of thousands of dollars in a home improvement fraud he operated between 2009 and 2014.

Farrell, 38, of Lafayette, pleaded guilty Monday morning to six felony counts of home improvement fraud and two felony counts of theft for swindling six elderly victims out of their money while performing home improvement chores for them, according to the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office. Farrell's scam stretched back to 2009, according to the allegations in the charging information.

In some instances, Farrell completed the work and grossly inflated the price of the work, according to the facts that Farrell admitted to Monday in Tippecanoe Superior 1, but in other instances, he did not finish the work.

Farrell was arrested in November and bonded out of jail the same day. He will be sentenced June 19.

May 15, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

5 more charged with dealing drugs

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A four-month investigation by the Tippecanoe County Drug Task Force has resulted in charges against five more Lafayette and West Lafayette residents this week.

Ten people have been charged thus far with dealing cocaine and narcotic drugs in connection with the investigation, and more arrests are in the works, according to Lt. Tim Payne, task force commander.

"We've done some other stuff along the way, but this has been probably 90 percent of our effort since January," Payne said Friday, noting that about two dozen officers participated in efforts Monday to track suspects and make arrests.

Makayla L. Keyes, 19, and Kamaria P. Walton, 21, both of Lafayette, were among seven people arrested Monday. They, along with 25-year-old Christopher C. Coats Jr., were charged with dealing and conspiring to deal cocaine, two felonies punishable by up to 16 years apiece.

Keyes, Walton and Coats are accused of selling more than a gram of cocaine to an undercover officer within 500 feet of the Montessori School of Greater Lafayette, according to a probable cause affidavit released Friday by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

They each face six lesser felony charges of dealing and possessing cocaine.

Eddie T. Mullings, 28, of Lafayette faces four felony charges of dealing and possessing cocaine. The most serious charge is punishable by up to 12 years.

Jacquez I. Lewis Jr., 24, of Lafayette faces six felony charges of dealing and possessing heroin. The most serious charge is punishable by up to six years.

Keyes and Walton were booked into Tippecanoe County Jail early Tuesday and held in lieu of \$15,000 surety plus \$1,500 cash bond. Keyes was released on bond Wednesday, but Walton remained in custody as of Friday afternoon, according to jail staff.

Mullings, who was arrested Thursday, posted \$10,000 surety plus \$1,000 cash bond and was released Friday.

Coats and Lewis hadn't been arrested as of Friday afternoon, Payne said.

May 15, 2015: TCPSN

Christopher Cleveland Coats, Jr., 25, Makayla Keyes, 19, and Kamaria Walton, 21, have been charged with Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 3 Fel).

In addition, Coats was charged with Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 4 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of Cocaine (Lev 6 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 3 Fel), Possession of Cocaine (Lev 5 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 4 Fel), and Possession of Cocaine (Lev 5 Fel).

In addition, Keyes was charged with Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 3 Fel), and Possession of Cocaine (Lev 5 Fel).

In addition, Walton was charged with Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 4 Fel), Possession of Cocaine (Lev 6 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 3 Fel), and Possession of Cocaine (Lev 5 Fel).

These additional charges are part of the 4-month investigation by the DTF. All charges were filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 15, 2015: TCPSN

Cory Allen Smith, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced to 6 years for his guilty plea to Dealing in a Controlled Substance (Lev B Fel) in Tippecanoe County. Sentence breakdown: IDOC: 534 days (completed by time served), TCCC 1 year 196 days, Probation 3 years, Programs: Placed with Home with Hope while on TCCC.

May 15, 2015: TCPSN

Jacquez Iceataz Lewis, JR, 24, has been charged with Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug (Lev 6 Fel), Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug (Lev 6 Fel), Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Lev 5 Fel), and Possession of a Narcotic Drug (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 15, 2015: TCPSN

Eddie T Mullings, 27, has been charged with Dealing in Cocaine (Level 5 Fel), Possession of Cocaine (Lev 6 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 4 Fel), and Possession of Cocaine (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 13, 2015: TCPSN

Amber Lynn Crank AKA Amber Lynn Cadwallader, 43, has been charged with Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 3 Fel), Theft (A Misd), Possession of Paraphernalia – syringes, other devices intended to be used for introducing into the person's body a controlled substance, testing the strength, effectiveness or purity of a controlled substance or enhancing the effect of a controlled substance (A Misd), and Theft With Prior Conviction (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. The charges arose from the armed robbery of Kathy's Kandies on Main Street in Lafayette.

May 12, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

4-month probe nets 7 cocaine-dealing arrests

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

A four-month investigation by the Tippecanoe County Drug Task Force resulted in seven arrests, with more "probable," Lafayette police Lt. Tim Payne announced Tuesday morning.

All seven suspects arrested overnight were booked on allegations that they dealt in cocaine or a narcotic drug.

The undercover operation involved at least 13 controlled buys and about 47.5 grams of cocaine, according to five probable cause affidavits filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

One affidavit was filed for each of the five defendants who have been formally charged:

Arrion K.J. Walton, 42, of Lafayette — who's known on the street as "Blue" — was charged Monday with four felonies punishable by up to 30 years apiece for allegedly dealing cocaine. He was caught selling between 5 and 10 grams of the drug at a time within 500 feet of Linnwood School and Linnwood Park on multiple occasions, an affidavit states.

Walton also faces six lesser felonies for alleged drug dealing and possession.

Chauncey E. Goodloe Jr., 23, of West Lafayette — known as "C4" — was charged with conspiracy to deal cocaine in excess of 10 grams, a felony punishable by up to 30 years. He also faces two lesser cocaine dealing and possession charges.

Jabal I. Stokes, 31, of Lafayette — known as "Low" — was charged with dealing cocaine within 500 feet of Centennial Park and St. James School while a child was reasonably expected to be present, a felony punishable by up to 16 years. He also faces a lesser cocaine possession charge.

Byron D. Jones-Lynch, 26, of Lafayette — known as "Brother" — was charged with dealing cocaine in the presence of a child younger than 18, a felony punishable by up to 12 years. He also faces three lesser cocaine dealing and possession charges.

Sean A. Gentle Jr., 22, of Lafayette — known as "Mac" — was charged with dealing cocaine as a felony punishable by up to 12 years. He also faces a lesser felony for allegedly possessing cocaine within 500 feet of Washington School.

All five male defendants have prior felony convictions that include offenses in Illinois, and at least three of them have prior convictions in Cook County, according to the affidavits.

Lafayette residents Kamaria Walton, 21, and Makayla Keyes, 19, were among the seven arrested on drug-related allegations, but neither had been formally charged as of Tuesday afternoon, according to court records.

Payne, task force commander, noted that search warrants were executed at three residences, including two in the 1300 block of North 15th Street in Lafayette and one in the 400 block of North River Road in West Lafayette.

Whereas the investigation is ongoing, "further charges will follow" and "further arrests are probable," Payne wrote in a news release.

The task force was assisted by Lafayette and West Lafayette police, Purdue University police, Indiana State Police and the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office.

Arrion Walton and Goodloe are being held in lieu of \$50,000 surety plus \$5,000 cash bond, according to jail staff.

Jones-Lynch and Gentle are being held on \$25,000 surety plus \$2,500 cash bond.

Kamaria Walton and Keyes are being held on \$15,000 surety plus \$1,500 cash bond.

Stokes posted \$25,000 surety plus \$2,500 cash bond and was released.

May 12, 2015: TCPSN

Sean Andre Gentle Jr, 23, has been charged with Dealing in Cocaine within 500 feet of Washington School (Lev 4 Fel), and Possession of Cocaine within 500 feet of Washington School (Lev 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office

May 12, 2015: TCPSN

Chauncey Earl Goodloe, Jr, 23, has been charged with Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 2 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 4 Fel), and Possession of Cocaine (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 12, 2015: TCPSN

Arrion Keishman-Jabbar Walton, 42, has been charged with Dealing in Cocaine within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18 yoa was present (Lev 2 Fel), Possession of Cocaine within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18 yoa was present (Lev 4 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18 yoa was present (Lev 2 Fel), Possession of Cocaine within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18 yoa was present (Lev 4 Fel), Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18

yoa was present (Lev 4 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18 yoa was present (Lev 5 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18 yoa was present (Lev 2 Fel), Possession of Cocaine within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18 yoa was present (Lev 4 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18 yoa was present (Lev 2 Fel), and Possession of Cocaine within 500 feet of Linnwood School, Linnwood Park while a person under 18 yoa was present (Lev 4 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 12, 2015: TCPSN

Byron Damarcus Jones-Lynch, 26, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Dealing in Cocaine (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of Cocaine (Lev 6 Fel), Dealing in Cocaine committed in the physical presence of a child less than 18 yoa (Lev 4 Fel), and Possession of Cocaine in the physical presence of a child less than 18 yoa (Lev 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 12, 2015: TCPSN

Jabal Ibnbermishma Stokes, 31, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Dealing in Cocaine Within 500 feet of Centennial Park, St. James School, St. Boniface School (Lev 3 Fel), and Possession of Cocaine Within 500 feet of Centennial Park, St. James School, St. Boniface School (Lev 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 11, 2015: TCPSN

Aaron Roswarski, 37, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Child Exploitation (Lev 5 Fel), Attempted Child Exploitation (Lev 5 Fel) and Voyeurism (Lev 6 Fel) b the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 11, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged after filming teen in shower

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man faces charges after investigators say he filmed a 17-year-old girl in the shower on multiple occasions.

According to court documents, 37-year-old Aaron Roswarski admits to taking several videos of the girl in the shower since October.

Detectives say Roswarski would use a small opening above a bathroom door to record her with his cellphone.

Roswarski faces three felony charges including child exploitation and voyeurism.

May 11, 2015: TCPSN

Robert Elliott Wheatley, from Chicago, IL was sentenced to 6 years today for his guilty plea to Aiding, inducing or causing forgery (C Fel) and Habitual Offender in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 2 years, 4 years TCCC

May 11, 2015: TCPSN

Eric Allen, of Gary, IN was sentenced to 14 years IDOC after a jury found him guilty of Operating a Vehicle After Driving Privileges Forfeited for Life (C Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (D Fel), Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated Endangering a Person (A Misd), and Habitual Substance Offender, Sentencing Enhancement.

May 11, 2015: TCPSN

Shawn Yoakum, of Rossville, IN was sentenced to 14 years for his guilty plea to Possession of Methamphetamine (B Fel) in Tippecanoe County. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 12 years, Supervised Probation 2 years; Court recommends CLIFF program while Defendant is in DOC; Defendant to obtain a substance evaluation upon release from DOC; Special Terms - This sentence shall run consecutive to Defendant's Marion County case 49G17-1210-CM-69438.

May 7, 2015: TCPSN

David Leroy Amos, of Indianapolis, IN was sentence to 4 years IDOC for his guilty plea to Conspiracy to Commit Fraud on Financial Institution (Lev 5 Fel) in Tippecanoe County.

May 7, 2015: TCPSN

Mark A Conley, 38, of Indianapolis, IN was charged today with Operating a Motor Vehicle While Privileges Are Forfeited For Life (Lev 5 Fel), Theft (Lev 6 Fel), Receiving Stolen Property (Lev 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (Lev 6 Fel) and Habitual Offender by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 6, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier**West Lafayette man faces meth-dealing charges**

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Formal methamphetamine-dealing charges were filed last week against a West Lafayette man, nearly 20 months after his initial arrest.

In addition to six felony drug charges, 51-year-old Stephen T. Winsett faces one felony charge that he neglected his 1-year-old child.

When officers stopped Winsett's truck Sept. 19, 2013 on Salisbury Street, they found a plethora of drug-related items in the vehicle, including pipes, digital scales and tubing, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Upon searching his home and barn, they found a variety of meth-making materials, multiple meth labs and a sizable marijuana grow operation equipped with lighting and piping, the affidavit states.

Officers reportedly removed about 52 marijuana plants from the barn and found dried marijuana weighing about 285 grams.

Winsett was released in September 2013 after posting \$12,500 surety plus \$1,250 cash bond. He was rearrested Friday after formal charges were filed, then he was released again on his own recognizance because he had already posted bond, according to Tippecanoe Superior Court 1 records.

He's scheduled to appear for an initial hearing May 15.

Winsett faces up to 20 years on the lead charge and up to eight years for allegedly having an illegal drug lab and neglecting a dependent.

The four other felonies are punishable by six months to three years apiece.

May 6, 2015: WLFITV**Man charged after alleged pot growing operation**

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Tippecanoe County man faces drug charges originating from a traffic stop more than 19 months ago.

West Lafayette police say when they stopped a truck driven by 51-year-old Stephen Winsett in September 2013, officers found a baggie with methamphetamine and other paraphernalia.

A search of his house on Huston Road found items used to make meth along with a marijuana grow operation. Investigators collected 52 plants along with about a half pound of marijuana.

Winsett's 1-year-old child was also at the home along with the child's mother.

Winsett faces eight charges including dealing meth and neglect of a dependent.

May 6, 2015: TCPSN

Stephen Tracy Winsett, 51, of West Lafayette, IN has been charged with Dealing in Methamphetamine (B Fel), Illegal Drug Lab (C Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (D Fel), two counts of Possession of Marijuana (D Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D Fel), and Neglect of a Dependent (C Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

May 4, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Felony drug conviction draws 6-year sentence



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Possessing methamphetamine and materials used to make it will cost a Lafayette man at least a few years of his freedom.

Justin Page, 31, was sentenced Monday to four years in prison followed by two years of probation after he pleaded guilty to two felony charges in Tippecanoe Circuit Court.

Page was one of two passengers riding June 12 in a car driven by Erin Orange, when Lafayette police pulled them over because Orange's license was suspended, according to court documents.

A backpack containing meth-making materials was reportedly located on the front floorboard and had been located between Page's legs. A separate bag of meth was found nearby.

Orange, who said she'd given Page a ride without knowing what was in his backpack, was convicted Sept. 8 on a misdemeanor for driving while suspended.

She was convicted on the same offense again Nov. 3, marking her sixth such offense in Tippecanoe County since January 2014.

May 1, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man sentenced to 36 years for attempted murder



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man is facing decades behind bars for trying to kill a woman last summer.

On Friday, 55-year old Richard Burke was sentenced to 36 years in prison.

In March, he pleaded guilty to attempted murder in exchange for other charges being dropped.

Last summer, police were called to an apartment on Main Street after neighbors heard a domestic dispute. When officers arrived, they found that a 59-year-old woman had been stabbed in the neck several times and the scissors were still in her body.

Burke's sentence includes a recommendation that he receive mental health treatment.

April 29, 2015: WLFITV

Fraud scheme targets Tippecanoe Co. woman selling online

By Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A Tippecanoe County woman hoping to sell an item on Craigslist became the target of fraud. Now the prosecutor wants others to look for the red flags of the online marketplace.

Elsa Janle went to sell a coat on Craigslist. When she received a check from an interested buyer for more than \$1,200 more than what she was asking for, she said red flags immediately went up.

"The check was from an electric company in Louisiana. That seemed strange because what I was selling was a child's coat," said Janle.

Janle said she called the company. They told her they also fell victim and the check was no good. They warned her that the person, or people, behind the fraudulent scheme would be getting back in touch with her soon. Sure enough that night — she received an e-mail.

"They gave me an address in Iowa. They also asked me to go to Walmart and send a MoneyGram through Walmart," said Janle.

Janle said they wanted her to send back the extra money. They told her to keep some for herself for the extra effort.

Janle took her story to police and they told her to fill out an FBI report. After that, she took her story to Prosecutor Pat Harrington. He said his office sees this kind of scheme often.

"When they send you a check for hundreds, they're counting on you to be greedy. Easy money. Something for nothing and that's what the victim ends up with, nothing," said Harrington.

But fortunately, Janle lost nothing and still has both her money and the coat.

"You know, be aware and watch out," said Janle.

Harrington said encourages residents to report fraudulent schemes to contact local law enforcement agencies and then his office. He said the more they know, the more they can contribute to investigations at a federal level.

April 29, 2015: TCPSN

Nicholas A Hawn, 20, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Carrying a Handgun Without a License within 500 Feet of school property (Lev 5 Fel), Theft-firearm (Lev 6 Fel), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), and Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 29, 2015: TCPSN

Christopher R Stevens, 22, of West Lafayette, IN and Anthony D Wilson, II, 22, were charged today with Burglary (Lev 4 Fel), Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (Lev 4 Fel) and two (2) counts of Theft (A Misd).

In addition Stevens was charged with Theft with a Prior (Lev 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd) and Habitual Offender.

These charges stemmed from a residential burglary that took place on Thursday, April 23, 2015 in West Lafayette, IN while the residents were sleeping.

Charges were filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 29, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Guilty pleas all around in check fraud ring



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Donald Jackson Jr. was sentenced Tuesday to 16 months in prison followed by 20 months on probation after he pleaded guilty to felony charges of conspiracy to commit forgery and conspiracy to commit fraud on a financial institution.

The 37-year-old was one of seven men arrested last September in connection with a check-cashing ring that defrauded four Lafayette banks.

The court ordered total restitution of more than \$17,000.

Co-defendants Shuntae Gaither and Deontrae Goolsby each pleaded guilty to four felony charges punishable by up to six years. They're scheduled for sentencing May 7 and 8.

Gaither and Goolsby were recruiting homeless men from Indianapolis to cash fraudulent checks for them in Lafayette, according to court documents.

Four men who they recruited — Michael Craven, Timothy Holt, David Amos and Jeremiah Struchen — each pleaded guilty to one felony in connection with the check fraud ring, according to court records.

Amos, Craven and Struchen are scheduled for sentencing May 6 and 7.

Holt was sentenced Tuesday to about 16 months in prison followed by about 19 months of probation.

Two other men who were riding in an SUV with Gaither and Goolsby when they were arrested told authorities that they, too, had been recruited to cash forged checks.

The men weren't arrested and haven't been charged.

April 28, 2015: WLFITV

Prosecutors: Man seen fleeing Lafayette murder scene charged

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man faces multiple drug-related charges after allegedly fleeing the scene with a duffel bag full of drugs after last week's shooting at Ninth and Salem streets.

Witnesses told police a man threw a blue duffel bag out of a second story window and another man — later identified as 25-year-old Michael Borders — fled the scene on foot with the bag. Officers found Borders, who matched the witness description, walking a few blocks away from the scene.

When Lafayette police stopped Borders, they checked his bag for weapons and allegedly found 14 pounds of synthetic drugs, 2.5 grams of methamphetamine, baggies, digital scales and several pieces of paraphernalia.

Witnesses confirmed to LPD Borders was the man they saw fleeing the scene.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors have charged Borders with possession of meth, synthetic drugs and paraphernalia as well as obstruction of justice and two counts of being a habitual offender.

Borders has a history of criminal activity. He was convicted twice of auto theft in 2006 and 2008. He was convicted of theft in 2010, convicted of escape in 2011, and already convicted twice of being a habitual offender in 2010 and 2011.

Additionally, Borders is currently under probation out of Cass County, under the supervision of the Tippecanoe County Probation Department.

Borders is currently in the Tippecanoe County Jail on a \$15,000 surety bond and \$1,500 cash bond.

April 28, 2015: TCPSN

Michael Derek Borders, 25, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Possession of Methamphetamine (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Obstruction of Justice (Lev 6 Fel), and Habitual Offender by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 28, 2015: TCPSN

Melissa Dawn Lee, of Tipton, IN was sentenced to 12 years for her guilty pleas to Forgery (C Fel), Theft (D Fel), Attempted Theft (D Fel) and Habitual Offender. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 10 years, TCCC 2 years

Criminal history:

- * 1997 Conversion (MA)
- * 1998 undetermined aiding, inducing, or causing offense (FC)
- * 1998 receiving stolen property (FD)
- * 1999 receiving stolen property (FD)
- * 1999 theft (FD)
- * 2000 receiving stolen property (FD)
- * 2003 identity deception (FD)
- * 2004 forgery (FC)
- * 2004 conversion (MA)
- * 2005 forgery (FC)
- * 2006 10x check deception (MA)
- * 2008 check deception (MA)

- * 2008 forgery (FC)
 - * 2008 forgery (FC)
 - * 2008 forgery (FC)
 - * 2013 theft (FD)
 - * 2014 theft (FD)
 - * 2014 receiving stolen property (FD) and habitual offender
 - * 2014 theft (FC)
 - * 2014 synthetic identity deception (FD)
 - * 2014 theft (FD)
-

April 27, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Checkbook thief gets decade in prison



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Melissa Lee, 36, of Tipton was sentenced Monday to a decade in prison and two years with Tippecanoe County Community Corrections after pleading guilty to felony forgery, theft and attempted theft charges.

Lee admitted that she stole an acquaintance's checkbook, cashing one forged check for \$950 and attempting to cash a second for \$750 in January 2013.

Lee, a habitual offender, has a long list of property crime convictions, including felony forgery in 2004, 2005 and three times in 2008, according to the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

Additionally, she's been convicted of theft five times since 1999, among a smattering of other offenses.

Lee was ordered to pay \$950 to Lafayette Bank & Trust in restitution.

April 23, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Charges filed in sleepover molestation case

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Child molestation charges were filed Thursday against 43-year-old Kenneth Noble, who's accused of touching a juvenile girl inappropriately last weekend.

Four preteen girls were having a sleepover in one bedroom of Noble's West Lafayette home when the alleged molestation took place, according to a probable cause affidavit.

When officers pulled Noble over and arrested him Wednesday, he had a loaded handgun in the center console, the affidavit states.

He faces three felony counts of child molesting and a misdemeanor charge of carrying a handgun without a license.

The most serious charge is punishable by 20 to 40 years.

April 23, 2015: TCPSN

Bradley A Lynch, 30, of Hillsboro, IN has been charged with two (2) counts of Sexual Misconduct with a Minor (Lev 4 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 23, 2015: TCPSN

Kenneth R Noble, 43, of West Lafayette, IN has been charged with Child Molesting (Lev 1 Fel), two (2) counts of Child Molesting (Lev 4 Fel), and Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 22, 2015: TCPSN

Antwon Lewis Milsap, 22, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Serious Violent Felon in Possession of a Firearm (Lev 4 Fel), Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd), and Carrying a Handgun Without a License While Having a Prior Felony Conviction (Lev 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 22, 2015: TCPSN

Johnelle Lakita-Shaneece Rollins, 24, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Intimidation-Drawing or Using a Deadly Weapon (Lev 5 Fel), and Criminal Recklessness Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 21, 2015: TCPSN

Cherish Annette Saylor, 44, Lafayette, IN was charged today with Welfare Fraud (C Fel), Welfare Fraud (Lev 6 Fel), Theft (D Fel), and Theft (Lev 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 18, 2015: WLFITV

Charges filed after child suffers severe head injuries

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A child's life-threatening injuries result in criminal charges for a Lebanon man.

Timothy Grissom, 22, was arrested in December after an 18-month-old child was brought into a hospital in Lafayette. Doctors found a severe head injury and airlifted the infant to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

About two months later, doctors told investigators the child's injuries were a result of violent force and they believed the child would never fully recover.

Grissom faces several charges, including neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury and battery on a child.

April 17, 2015: WLFITV

Learn identity protection at Financial Fraud seminar

By Austin Miller

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — The Tippecanoe County Public Library is hosting a seminar Wednesday to help adults spot fraudulent activity.

The event is part of the county's Money Smart Week, which teaches people better ways to manage their finances.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington and his staff will give a presentation on how to protect your identity and how to avoid investment schemes and financial fraud. He said it's important to keep the public aware of the type of activity going on right now.

“Unfortunately, the numbers of fraud or exploitation of the elderly has increased,” Harrington said. “The newest one that is currently under investigation is the door-to-door exploitation.”

It’s always good to be cautious, because Harrington said these schemes are always evolving.

“Unfortunately, they seem to be seasonal,” Harrington explained. “We hit the IRS scam earlier in the year. As spring hits, people are outdoors and need home repairs. We get the home improvement fraud. So, these are the topics we want to try and address.”

Wednesday’s seminar is open to the public and will go from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more Money Smart Week events in Tippecanoe County, [click here](#).

April 17, 2015: WLFITV

Charges filed after child suffers severe head injuries

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A child’s life-threatening injuries result in criminal charges for a Lebanon man.

Timothy Grissom, 22, was arrested in December after an 18-month-old was brought into a hospital in Lafayette. Doctors found a severe head injury and airlifted the child to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

About two months later, doctors told investigators the child’s injuries were a result of violent force and they believed the child would never fully recover.

Grissom faces several charges, including neglect of a dependent resulting in serious bodily injury and battery on a child.

April 17, 2015: TCPSN

Timothy Lee Grissom, 22, of Lebanon, IN was charged today with Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Lev 3 Fel), Aggravated Battery (Level 3 Fel), Battery on a Child Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Lev 3 Fel), Possession of Marijuana (B Misd), and Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office.

April 15, 2015: TCPSN

Mathew A Cornell, 42, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Failure to Register (Sex Offender) (Lev 6 Fel) with a Habitual Offender Enhancement by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office.

April 12, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Guilty plea entered in frat house battery



Steven Porter, sporter@jonline.com

Eric Todderud stepped up and admitted last week that he harmed two overnight guests inside the Sigma Nu fraternity house at Purdue University in 2013.

The 22-year-old fraternity member from Fishers pleaded guilty Thursday to misdemeanor battery and felony criminal recklessness resulting in serious bodily injury.

He withdrew a previous claim that he had been acting in self-defense when he punched Bryan Boehm and Nathaniel Yanz on Sept. 14, 2013.

Boehm, who was knocked unconscious, had three teeth extracted and bone grafts placed in his jaw, court documents state.

He reportedly suffered from daily headaches a full three months after the incident.

Todderud also pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor criminal mischief charge alleging that he did more than \$750 in damage to a woman's car Oct. 1, 2014.

The plea deal he signed calls for a total sentence between two and four years, with the lead felony battery charge being dismissed.

Tippecanoe Superior Court Judge Randy Williams said he would take the deal under advisement until sentencing, which is scheduled for May 21 at 9 a.m.

Todderud's defense attorney, Brett Gibson, said his client had withdrawn from school but still faces pending disciplinary proceedings from the university.

His fraternity chapter, meanwhile, was slapped with a two-year suspension last month after university officials determined its members had committed acts of hazing, illegal drug use and alcohol consumption by minors at chapter events in fall 2014.

About 50 students living in the fraternity's house in the 1300 block of Tower Drive in West Lafayette were instructed to immediately find other accommodations.

April 9, 2015: WLFITV

Father sentenced to 70 years after twins die in fire

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – It's been just over a year since three-year-old twins Landon and Liam Abbott died in a house fire. It's through their deaths that law enforcement officers, firefighters and investigators are learning about a drug called wax, also known as marijuana honey.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said he believes their deaths are the first in the state linked to a fire caused by the making of the drug.

"These two children should have never been put in this situation," Harrington said. "The greater picture here though, and this is happening across the country, individuals are using volatile substances to create different forms of marijuana and people are dying as a result of this."

Harrington said the twins' father, 32-year-old Brandon Abbott, admitted to making wax. The process involves using propane and butane to extract oil from marijuana creating a product 10 times stronger than the plant form of the drug. At the scene, investigators found all the tools to make wax in addition to guns and other illegal drugs.

"This is a dangerous process. It should never be legalized, but in some of the states that have legalized it like Colorado and Washington they've had a number of these explosions," Harrington said.

Harrington said this dangerous drug concerns him because the county is already seeing a spike in heroin overdoses and other drug use.

“And now we have another element of what appears to be an endless line of how drug users and drug dealers figure out a different way to get a better ‘product’ from them that involves dangerous, dangerous materials,” Harrington said.

This is the first time Harrington said he’s worked on a case in Tippecanoe County involving wax.

Since the deaths of Landon and Liam, he’s been working with area law enforcement and fire departments.

“Law enforcement has been briefed on it, and when this case occurred we sent out information to the fire departments to start looking for this and get trained on this immediately,” Harrington said.

Abbott was sentenced to 66 years behind bars and four years of supervised probation after pleading guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in death.

April 9, 2015: TCPSN

Brandon Abbott, of Frankfort, IN has been sentenced to 70 years for his guilty plea to two (2) counts of Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death (A Fel). Sentence breakdown: IDOC 66 years, Probation 4 years





April 9, 2015: TCPSN

Marlon Larron Bethel AKA Gregory Airaington, 44, of East Chicago, IN was sentenced today in Tippecanoe County to 10 years IDOC for his guilty plea to Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon (Lev 4 Fel).

April 9, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Woman charged with cashing forged checks

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Prosecutors accused 19-year-old Ashley Nichole Gallien of Lafayette of stealing checks, cashing two and pocketing \$1,415 from a Lafayette man's account.

Gallien is charged with fraud on a financial institution, a Level 5 felony, two counts of forgery, Level 6 felonies, and two counts of theft — one a Level 6 felony, the other a Class A misdemeanor.

Gallien is suspected of stealing a check book from a truck parked in the 1600 block of Sagamore Parkway North on Jan. 10.

In the days following the theft, prosecutors said Gallien cashed two checks — one for \$950 and a second check for \$480. Both were payable to Gallien, and she used her driver's license as identification when she cashed the checks, according to prosecutors.

April 9, 2015: TCPSN

Co Defendants Charles Alexander II, 28, of West Lafayette, IN, Dustin Foust, 30, and Lindsay McCoy, 36, both of Bedford, IN have been charged by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office with the following: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing of Methamphetamine (Lev 5 Fel), Dealing in Methamphetamine (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Lev 6 Fel), Illegal Drug Lab (Lev 6 Fel), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), and Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd).

April 9, 2015: TCPSN

Purdue student David A Collins Jr, 18, of West Lafayette, IN was charged today with Burglary (Lev 5 Fel), and Theft (A Misd) by Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office for an incident, which occurred at Tarkington Hall.

April 9, 2015: TCPSN

Ashley Nichole Gallien, 19, of Lafayette, IN was charged with Fraud on a Financial Institution (Lev 5 Fel), two (2) counts of Forgery (Lev 6 Fel), Theft (Lev 6 Fel), and Theft (A Misd) today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 9, 2015: TCPSN

Gregory Paul Bowyer, II, 28, of Gary, IN was charged with Fraud on a Financial Institution (Lev 5 Fel), Forgery (Lev 6 Fel), and Theft (Lev 6 Fel) today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 9, 2015: TCPSN

Sean Andre Gentle Jr, 23, and Denise Latrice Bailey, 22, of Lafayette, IN have been charged with Possession of Cocaine in Physical Presence of a Child less Than 18 (Lev 5 Fel), Possession of Marijuana (B Misd), and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (Lev 6 Fel), by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office. In addition, Gentle was charged with and Obstruction of Justice (Lev 6 Fel).

April 8, 2015: WLFITV

Woman charged after using name of deceased to steal from employer

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A West Lafayette woman faces a dozen felony charges after police said she stole more than \$5,000 from her employer and used the names of her children and dead grandmother to steal it.

Jennifer Fuller, 35, faces 11 counts of theft and one count of corrupt business influence. Police said the investigation began in February when officers were called to former a business on Commerce Drive, near the east side Wal-Mart.

The Gold Experts owner told officers he hired Fuller via Craig's List and he thought she had stolen silver from him.

Court documents list 11 checks from March 2013 through February 2014 totaling more than \$5,200, which are believed to be fraudulent. Several of those checks were made out to Fuller's children and one is written to her grandmother who has been dead for 13 years

April 8, 2015: TCPSN

Jennifer Lee Fuller, 35, of West Lafayette, IN was charged with Corrupt Business Influence (C Fel), and eleven (11) counts of Theft (D Fel) today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 7, 2015: WLFITV

2 Lafayette men charged after alleged armed robbery

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Two Lafayette men are preliminarily charged after allegedly robbing two people at gunpoint.

On March 29, Lafayette police were dispatched to the area of S. Fourth Street for a report of two men hiding in a ditch. When police arrived on the scene, they met with two victims who told officers they were approached by two men who demanded they "empty their pockets and get on the ground."

The victims said the men demanded money and cellphones while pointing a gun at them. They said they complied and the men took the items and fled.

After searching the area, police located two suspects identified as 22-year-old Creshawn Fleming and 23-year-old Edward Lane Jr. hiding in a shed behind a home on Murphy Street. Officers said the men matched the description given by the victims.

According to court documents, police found three handguns, a bag of marijuana and one victim's cellphone inside the shed.

Both Fleming and Lane face a felony charge of robbery while armed with a deadly weapon and three misdemeanor charges for theft, possession of marijuana and carrying a handgun with a license.

April 7, 2015: TCPSN

Creshawn Edward Fleming, 22, and Edward Leon Lane, Jr, 23, of Lafayette, IN have been charged by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office with the following:

Fleming: Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 3 Fel), Theft (A Misd), Carrying A Handgun Without a License -.25 caliber Lorcin semi-automatic handgun (A Misd), Possession of Marijuana (B Misd).

Lane: Robbery Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Lev 3 Fel), Theft (A Misd), Carrying A Handgun Without a License -.357 caliber Smith & Wesson handgun (A Misd), and Possession of Marijuana (B Misd).

April 6, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man faces charges after injuring 22-month-old baby

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man faces multiple charges after allegedly causing injuries to a woman and her child.

While the 22-month-old child was in his care, police said 19-year-old Michael Johnson hit the infant over the head causing several bruises. According to police when the mother returned from work, a fight broke out over the child's injuries and Johnson strangled her.

Police said Johnson admitted to hitting the child "a little bit too hard."

Johnson has been preliminarily charged with battery, strangulation and intimidation.

April 6, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Child abuse charges filed on 19-year-old

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Child abuse charges were filed Monday against 19-year-old Michael Johnson, who allegedly inflicted serious bodily injury on his girlfriend's toddler March 29.

Johnson told investigators he'd been babysitting the 22-month-old and two other children in his Lafayette home when he disciplined the boy for fighting with the other kids, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Authorities noted multiple bruises and significant swelling on the boy's head, the affidavit states.

Johnson is accused of battery on a child resulting in serious bodily injury, a felony punishable by up to 16 years in prison.

He faces four other felonies punishable by six to 30 months apiece: domestic battery in the presence of a child, intimidation, criminal confinement and strangulation.

Johnson had allegedly choked his girlfriend and threatened to kill her if she called police, court documents state.

April 6, 2015: TCPSN

Michael A. Johnson, 19, of Lafayette, IN was charged with Battery on a Child Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (Lev 3 Fel), Domestic Battery Committed in the Physical Presence of a Child Less than 16 Years of Age (Lev 6 Fel), Intimidation (Lev 6 Fel), Criminal Confinement (Lev 6 Fel), Strangulation (Lev 6 Fel), and Invasion of Privacy (A Misd) today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

April 3, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette child molesting couple sentenced to prison



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette woman and her boyfriend are sentenced after they were found guilty on multiple counts of child molesting.

The Tippecanoe County prosecutor said Elizabeth Carle and Cory DesArmo, both of Lafayette, molested the victim on multiple occasions.

According to court documents, the victim who is now 8 years old testified that DesArmo forced her to perform sexual acts on him. She also stated that Carle would touch her inappropriate places.

On Thursday, DesArmo was sentenced to 50 years in the Department of Corrections, meaning 42.5 actual years. Carle was sentenced to 38 years in prison, or 32.3 actual years.

April 3, 2015: TCPSN

Lafayette, IN Couple Sentenced Yesterday for Multiple Counts of Child Molesting in Tippecanoe County



Cory DesArmo has been sentenced to 50 years IDOC after a Tippecanoe County, IN jury found him guilty of four (4) counts of Child Molesting (A Fel), two (2) counts of Child Molesting (C Fel), and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Child Molesting (A Fel).

Elizabeth Carle has been sentenced to 38 years IDOC after a Tippecanoe County, IN jury found her guilty of two (2) counts of Child Molesting (A Fel), one count of Conspiracy to Commit Child Molesting (A Fel), and one count of Neglect of a Dependent (D Fel).

April 2, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Spurned lover sentenced for shooting



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Darwin Benefield was handed a 10-year sentence Wednesday after he pleaded guilty to felony intimidation with a deadly weapon.

The 31-year-old Lafayette man had shown up with a gun at his ex-girlfriend's home in the Cambridge Estates apartment complex after 3 a.m. Dec. 1, 2013, according to a probable cause affidavit.

The woman's new boyfriend was there.

Benefield reportedly fired a handgun into the air and pointed it at his ex-lover's new beau.

With the butt of the gun, he struck the man and the man's friend, firing two more shots into the air before leaving, the affidavit states.

About 14 hours after the shooting, Lafayette police caught up with Benefield, who was driving without a license and had marijuana.

A jury convicted him Nov. 14, 2014 on three misdemeanors for the drug and driving offenses, but it couldn't reach a consensus on the other six charges.

In light of the partially hung jury, Tippecanoe County Magistrate Judge Sean Persin — who's since taken the bench in Superior Court 5 — entered convictions on the three misdemeanors and scheduled a retrial for the remaining counts.

Benefield decided, however, to forgo a second trial, when he pleaded guilty to intimidation and battery.

His sentence calls for six years in the Indiana prison system, with a possible seventh year if he's rejected by Marion County Community Corrections, followed by three years of probation.

April 1, 2015: TCPSN



Darwin Gustavo Benefield, of Lafayette, IN, was sentenced to 10 years for his open plea to Intimidation Using a Deadly Weapon (C Fel), Battery (B Misd) in addition to a Tippecanoe County jury finding him guilty of Possession of Marijuana (A Misd), Operating While Suspended (A Misd), and Operating While Never Receiving a License (A Misd). Sentence breakdown: IDOC 6 years, TCCC 1 year if Marion County accepts, if not IDOC time, Probation 3 years – 2 supervised, 1 unsupervised

April 1, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Red-handed burglar gets decade sentence



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

When a Lafayette woman returned home after running errands one day last July, she immediately sensed that something was amiss.

Upon entering her house in the 1100 block of Hedgewood Drive about noon, she saw a wooden box that belongs to her husband sitting on the living room floor.

A noise from the back room caught her attention, so she followed it, calling out her husband's name.

Instead of her husband, she found a stranger in her bedroom digging through a dresser drawer.

The man, later identified as 28-year-old Daniel Reid, ran from the house and drove away, according to a probable cause affidavit.

He was sentenced Wednesday to five years in prison, followed by two years with Tippecanoe County Community Corrections and three years of probation.

Reid, who has pending local drug charges from last year as well, has an extensive criminal history that includes convictions for drugs, resisting law enforcement, battery and domestic battery.

April 1, 2015: TCPSN

Nicholas Scott Cunningham, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced to 15 years for his guilty plea to Dealing in Cocaine (B Fel) and Dealing in Heroin (B Fel) in Tippecanoe County. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 10 years, Probation 5 years supervised, Recommendation to CLIFF or PLUS program (substance abuse treatment)

April 1, 2015: TCPSN

Daniel Lee Reid, 28, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced to 10 years for his guilty plea to Burglary (Level 4 Fel) and Theft (A Misd) in Tippecanoe County. Sentence breakdown: IDOC 7 years - to include any available substance abuse treatment, TCCC 2 years at LTBD, Probation 3 years supervised

March 30, 2015: WLFITV

Two sentenced for WL gas station robbery



WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Two men have been sentenced for robbing a West Lafayette gas station in August.

Charles Jenkins Jr., 22, was sentenced to 11 years in prison and Andre Brown, 23, was sentenced to eight years in prison and two years probation.

According to court documents, three men were involved in a robbery at the Circle K gas station on Sagamore Parkway on Aug. 8, 2014. They men used a gun and got away with money, cigarettes and the clerk's cellphone.

After tracking down a name from a Lafayette gun store, the three men were stopped the next day. Investigators found the stolen cellphone and clothing worn during the robbery in the apartment where the men were staying.

The third man, Tyler Chandler, is set to be sentenced next month.

March 30, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Two sentenced for Aug. 8 armed robbery



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

First reported at JConline.com

Andre Brown and Charles D. Jenkins Jr. learned Monday the price they will pay for their Aug. 8 robbery of the Circle K gas station at U.S. 52 in West Lafayette.

Jenkins, 22, of Gary, received an 11-year sentence to the Department of Correction. He has three prior convictions out of Lake County and has a pending robbery charge in Black Hawk County, Iowa.

Brown, 23, of East Chicago, received a 10-year sentence, eight years of which will be spent at the Department of Correction and two years suspended and on probation.

A jury recently convicted the duo of conspiracy to commit robbery while armed with a deadly weapon, robbery while armed with a deadly weapon and two counts of theft. For sentencing purposes, the convictions were all rolled into the robbery while armed with a deadly weapon.

Jenkins and Brown entered the gas station/convenience store shortly after 3 a.m. Aug. 8, 2014, armed with a long-barreled handgun. They took money from the cash register, as well as several pack of cigarettes, some small cigars and the clerk's cellphone. In the days following the robbery, police tracked down Jenkins and Brown, as well as two other suspects in the heist.

March 30, 2015: TCPSN

Andre Lavon Brown AKA Andre Brown Jr., 23, of East Chicago, Indiana has been sentenced to 10 years after a Tippecanoe county jury found him guilty on all counts involving the Circle K Armed Robbery on 8/8/2014: Conspiracy to Commit Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel) and two (2) counts of Theft (A Misd). Sentence breakdown: IDOC 8 years, Probation 2 years supervised.

March 30, 2015: TCPSN

Charles Darryl Jenkins, Jr, 22, of Gary, Indiana has been sentenced to 11 years IDOC after a Tippecanoe county jury found him guilty on all counts involving the Circle K Armed Robbery on 8/8/2014: Conspiracy to Commit Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel) and two (2) counts of Theft (A Misd).

March 27, 2015: TCPSN

Joseph Dominic Gia, 33, of Lafayette, IN has been charged today with Escape (Level 5 Fel), Escape (Level 6 Fel) and two (2) counts Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 27, 2015: TCPSN

Keywon Dortch, 24, of Chicago, IL was sentenced to 5 yrs. today for his guilty plea to Forgery (C Fel) and Resisting Law Enforcement (Level 6 Fel) in Tippecanoe County, IN. Sentence breakdown: IDOC: 2 years, TCCC: 2 years, Probation: 1 year supervised.

March 26, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man faces multiple drug-related charges

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — One of eight people who were arrested Saturday on multiple charges after an anonymous tip has been charged in Tippecanoe County.

Prosecutors said 27-year-old Thomas Land Jr., of Lafayette, faces seven charges including possession of methamphetamine, carrying a handgun without a license, resisting law enforcement and possession of a synthetic drug with a prior.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Lafayette police went to the intersection of N. 24th and Albany streets after receiving an anonymous tip about a possible drug deal. Officers said Land was acting suspiciously and noticed he was sweating profusely.

When officers attempted to put Land in handcuffs, he fled police. He was apprehended a block over on N. 25th Street.

According to court documents, police found more than 40 grams of spice, a loaded .40 caliber handgun and a glass pipe in the vehicle. In Land's jacket, police found more spice and 17 pills, later identified as hydrocodone.

After Land was transported to jail, officers found more drugs.

When Land was removed from the squad car, police found a rock-like crystal substance on the back seat where he had been sitting. At the jail, more crystals were found when they took off his pants. Jail staff said they also located an additional baggie in his rectum. The crystal substance tested positive for meth. Police also found a hypodermic syringe.

Police said more than 5 grams of meth and more than 50 grams of spice were recovered.

March 26, 2015: TCPSN

Thomas J. Land, Jr of Lafayette, In was charged today with Possession of Methamphetamine (Level 4 Fel), Possession of a Schedule II Controlled Substance – Hydrocodone (Level 6 Fel), Carrying a Handgun without a License (A Misd), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), and Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance with a Prior (Level 5 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 25, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man pleads guilty to attempted murder



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man faces up to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to trying to kill a woman last summer.

Fifty-five-year-old Richard Burke agreed Wednesday to plead guilty to attempted murder in exchange for other charges being dropped.

It all happened in an apartment on the 1100 block of Main Street the night of Aug. 11. As News 18 has already reported, neighbors called 911 when they thought they heard a domestic dispute.

When police arrived, they found that a 59-year-old woman had been stabbed in the neck several times and that the scissors were still in the woman's body.

Burke faces 20 to 40 years in prison. Sentencing is set for May 1.

March 25, 2015: TCPSN

Richard Michael Burke, 55, has pled guilty to Attempted Murder (Level 1 Fel) in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. Sentencing is Friday, May 1, 2015 at 11:00am.

March 20, 2015: TCPSN

Kemo Delshun Whirl, 40, of Chicago, IL was sentenced today to 7.5 years IDOC for his guilty plea to Forgery (C Fel), Forgery (C Fel) and Theft (D Fel) at Tippecanoe County, Indiana

March 18, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette drug dealer gets 40-year sentence



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Lafayette drug dealer who sold drugs at Columbian Park gets 40 years in prison.

Anthony Owen, 42, sold cocaine and heroin to an undercover officer last summer at several locations including the park last July.

According to court documents, he bragged that he sold drugs to 50 to 75 people a day.

He pleaded guilty last month to several charges and was sentenced Wednesday to 40 years behind bars.

March 18, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged with dealing meth

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — One man faces drug-related charges from Tippecanoe County prosecutors.

Timothy Reed, 49, faces five charges including dealing methamphetamine.

According to court documents, when officers went to check on Reed with Community Corrections last week, they found drugs and paraphernalia in Reed's home on the 600 block of Jefferson Street in Lafayette.

He's currently in the Tippecanoe County Jail on a \$20,000 bond, plus \$2,000 cash.

March 17, 2015: TCPSN

Timothy Lee Reed, 49, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Dealing in Methamphetamine (Level 4 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Level 6 Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Maintaining a Common Nuisance (Level 6 Fel), and Habitual Offender Enhancement by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 17, 2015: TCPSN

Anthony David Owen was sentenced to 40 year today IDOC for his guilty pleas to Dealing in Narcotic Drug - Heroin (A Fel), Conspiracy to Deal in a Narcotic Drug (Level 2 Fel) and Habitual Offender in Tippecanoe County.

March 17, 2015: TCPSN

Jason Wayne Morehouse, 37, of West Lafayette, IN has been charged with Forgery (C Fel), and two (2) counts of Theft (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 17, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

'The Man' heroin dealer sentenced to 40 years

Steven Porter

A heroin dealer who called himself "The Man" was sentenced Wednesday to 40 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to felony charges of conspiring to sell a narcotic drug.

An undercover officer testified during 42-year-old Anthony Owen's sentencing hearing that the defendant had been selling drugs for a decade and that he and his workers served 40-50 customers daily, according to a press release from the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

Owen, who was charged in September alongside four co-defendants, had faced 15 drug-related felonies in two separate cause numbers, plus an enhancement because he's classified as a habitual offender.

In taking a plea deal, he admitted to the two most serious charges and the habitual offender enhancement.

The sentence, which was handed down by Tippecanoe Circuit Court Judge Tom Busch, will be executed under the revision to Indiana law that took effect last year, meaning Owen will serve 30 years with good behavior.

March 17, 2015: TCPSN

Anthony David Owen was sentenced to 40 year today IDOC for his guilty pleas to Dealing in Narcotic Drug - Heroin (A Fel), Conspiracy to Deal in a Narcotic Drug (Level 2 Fel) and Habitual Offender in Tippecanoe County.

March 17, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Father pleads guilty in death of his twins



Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Brandon Lee Abbott pleaded guilty Tuesday to two counts of neglect of a dependent resulting in death for the April 5, 2014, fire that killed his twin boys.

Abbott's house in the 10700 block of Brandy Kay Court caught fire about 11 a.m. April 5. Deputies who were first on the scene found Abbott, who is now 32, and a woman standing in front of the house.

The deputies climbed through a window into the burning house and found the two 3-year-old boys. They were pronounced dead after arriving at the hospital, according to a probable cause affidavit filed in November.

Abbott claimed he had consumed some alcoholic beverages the night before the fire, but he told investigators he had not used drugs before having his boys for a weekend visit, according to the probable cause affidavit. But investigators said a blood test on Abbott taken on April 5 indicated that Abbott had recently used marijuana, Ecstasy, and Hydrocodone, according to the probable cause affidavit.

In the investigation following the fire, police reported finding various illegal drugs and paraphernalia throughout the house, according to the probable cause affidavit.

When arrested in November, Abbott was also charged with possession of a Schedule I controlled substance, a Class B felony; two counts of possession of a Schedule I controlled substance, Class D felonies; possession of a narcotic drug, a Class D felony; possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance, both Class D felonies. He also was charged with dealing marijuana, possession of marijuana and maintaining a common nuisance, Class D felonies, as well as possession of paraphernalia and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, Class A misdemeanors.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington indicated that those charges will be dismissed when Abbott is sentenced in Tippecanoe County Superior 2 on April 9.

Under the plea agreement, Abbott's prison sentence is restricted to between 55 years and 70 years, and all are to be served at the Department of Correction. If Abbott stays out of trouble in prison, he could be released after serving between 27 1/2 years and 35 years.

March 17, 2015: THE BRAZIL TIMES

Human trafficking bill advances to governor's desk for final approval

Press release

\INDIANAPOLIS--Legislation co-authored by State Rep. Melanie Wright (D-Yorktown) that would speed up the rescue of missing children and trafficking victims is advancing to Indiana Gov. Mike Pence for final approval. State Rep. Randy Truitt (R-West Lafayette) authored the bill, which the full Indiana Senate passed today by a vote of 49-0.

House Bill 1216 would require state police to distribute trafficking pamphlets to law enforcement agencies and any person who files a missing child report. Since Senators made no changes to the legislation, it advances directly to the governor for his consideration.

"Pamphlets will include the twenty-four hour toll-free numbers for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and the National Runaway Safeline, as well as a summary of their services," Wright said. "At the very least, the pamphlets can provide emotionally distraught parents with a sense of hope and plan of action for recovering their missing children."

HB 1216 also defends child victims of human or sexual trafficking against prostitution charges.

The Tippecanoe County Prosecutor says victims are commonly arrested for underage prostitution, booked into jails under false identification, and bonded out by their captors. Many times victimized children are then taken out of state and virtually become ghosts.

"This legislation changes the conversation from a juvenile delinquency issue to a child protection issue," noted Wright. "Trafficking victims are traumatized, isolated, and scared. We want victims to seek help without fearing prosecution for prostitution.

"We want the children to be recognized as victims, not criminals," she added.

To prevent victims from vanishing with their abductors, HB 1216 authorizes the Department of Children Services to act as a stand-in legal guardian. The department would then reunite the child with their family or put them in a safe house.

More incidents of human trafficking are starting to come to light in Indiana. In 2014, the attorney general's office reported 100 trafficking cases.

In addition to Wright, HB 1216 was so popular that it attracted a large number of supporters in both the House and Senate.

March 17, 2015: WLFITV

Father of twin boys pleads guilty in connection to their deaths

By Dan Klein

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — The father of young twin boys killed in a Tippecanoe County house fire pleads guilty in connection with their deaths.

Brandon Abbott faces up to 70 years in prison. Sentencing is set to take place just 4 days after the anniversary of the fire.

Thirty-two-year-old Abbott had been initially charged with 13 counts in November with the most serious being two counts of neglect of a dependent resulting in death. In exchange for pleading guilty to those two charges Tuesday, the other charges will be dropped.

The fire broke out on the 10,000 block of Brandy Kay Court April 5 of last year. That's about two miles northwest of Mulberry. Three-year-old twin boys, Landon and Liam, were trapped inside the home.

Their mother told us that Abbott had only had visitation rights for about a month.

Abbott told investigators that he had been drinking and used prescription drugs and marijuana the night before the fire. While the cause was not determined, investigators said a propane canister with a torch exploded in the same room where they believe the fire started.

In court documents, Abbott said he used the torch to smoke marijuana.

He has a criminal record already that includes domestic violence and marijuana offenses.

Sentencing is set for April 9. Abbott faces between 55 to 70 years in prison.

March 17, 2015: TCPSN

Brandon Lee Abbott, 32, of Frankfort, IN pled guilty this afternoon to Count 1 & Count 2; both counts were Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death.

Both Counts are Class A Felony, and pursuant to the Plea Agreement, the sentence shall not be less than Fifty-Five (55) years and not more than seventy (70) years, all executed to the Indiana Department of Corrections. The remaining charges will be dismissed at the time of sentencing, and the Defendant waives his right to appeal.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 9th, 2015 at 8:30 am. The Court took his guilty plea under advisement until the sentencing hearing.

March 11, 2015: WLFITV

Former school employee accused of molesting girl at bus stop

By Dan Klein

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A 19-year-old former Lafayette School Corporation employee faces six counts of child molesting.

According to court documents, Josemaria Gonzalez met the victim at her bus stop on a regular basis beginning in December, then started kissing her and touching her inappropriately on a regular basis until last month.

As News 18 reported last week, the girl is not a student at the Lafayette School Corporation.

The victim also told an investigator with the Department of Child Services that there was one incident at Gonzalez's home on Cor Dale Court when she was 12 years old. She says the two kissed and Gonzalez pulled her on top of him on the couch.

The LSC board terminated Gonzalez's employment with the district Monday evening. Gonzalez had been hired as a paraprofessional in December.

A judge set his bond Wednesday at \$20,000 surety plus \$1,500 cash.

March 11, 2015: TCPSN

Josemaria Gonzalez, 19, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with five (5) counts of Child Molesting (Level 4 Fel) and Child Molesting (C Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 10, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged for selling prescription pain killers

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Charges have been filed against a Lafayette man accused of selling prescription pain drugs to police during an undercover investigation.

Scott Forsythe, 43, faces felony charges of dealing a schedule three controlled substance and maintaining a common nuisance.

Lafayette police say he sold hydrocodone pills to two undercover officers in October of 2013.

Tuesday, Forsythe is in custody at the Tippecanoe County Jail.

March 9, 2015: WLFITV

Meth dealer sentenced to 34 years in prison



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to 34 years in prison and three years probation after pleading guilty to dealing meth.

Prosecutors said James Hampton, 47, also admitted to being a habitual substance offender.

As News 18 has reported, Hampton sold meth to officers three times in October of 2013, twice at a duplex on McCarty Lane and once at the Knights Inn on South Street.

March 9, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette woman charged with dealing hydrocodone

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Lisa Birge, 49, of Lafayette faces one charge of dealing a controlled substance.

According to Tippecanoe County prosecutors, Birge sold tablets of hydrocodone to a confidential informant in July 2013.

She remains in jail Monday evening with a bond set at \$1,250 cash plus \$12,500 surety.

March 9, 2015: TCPSN

Luis D Torres AKA Louie Torres AKA DJ Torres, 18, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Conspiracy to Commit Burglary (Level 2 Fel), Burglary (Level 2 Fel), and Conspiracy to Commit Robbery (Level 3 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 9, 2015: TCPSN

Lisa June Birge, 49, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Dealing in a Schedule III Controlled Substance - Hydrocodone (B Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 6, 2015: TCPSN

Teodoro Z Macias, 78, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with two (2) counts of Child Molesting (Level 4 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 6, 2015: TCPSN

Travis A Alexander, 35, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with three (3) counts of Possession of Child Pornography (Level 6 Fel) with Habitual Offender Enhancement by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 6, 2015: TCPSN

Keith Andrew Black, 58, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Battery Committed by Means of a Deadly Weapon (Level 5 Fel), Criminal Recklessness Committed While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 6 Fel), and Domestic Battery Committed in the Physical Presence of a Child (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 4, 2015: TCPSN

Robert R White, 33, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Battery on a Child Resulting in Bodily Injury (Level 5 Fel), Intimidation (Level 6 Fel), Domestic Battery Committed in the Physical Presence of a Child (Level 6 Fel), and Neglect of a Dependent (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

March 2, 2015: TCPSN

Martell Loran Williams, 24, currently in Westville Correctional Facility was charged today with Burglary (B Fel), Residential Entry (D Fel), and Theft (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 27, 2015: WLFITV

Men found guilty of WL gas station armed robbery



Two men were found guilty Friday of robbing a West Lafayette gas station last year.

Charles Jenkins, 22, and Andre Brown, 23, were convicted of multiple charges, including robbery while armed with a deadly weapon and theft.

As News 18 reported, the Circle K at Sagamore Parkway and Yeager Road was robbed around 3:30 on the morning of Aug. 8.

Prosecutors said Jenkins and Brown got away with cigarettes and the clerk's cell phone.

Sentencing is set for March 28. Both men face three to 16 years.

February 27, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man accused of molesting two teenage girls

Michael D. Houser of West Lafayette faces 10 felony charges stemming from accusations he had sex with two teenage girls.

The charging information accuses Houser of molesting the two girls between November 2010 and February 2012. Houser was arrested Sept. 25, 2012, and released from jail three days later after posting bond.

Houser, 51, of the 4100 block of Jackson Highway, faces two counts of Class A felony charges of child molesting and two Class C felony counts of child molesting. He also faces two counts of sexual misconduct with a minor, Class B felonies, three Class C felonies charges of sexual misconduct with a minor. Additionally, he is accused of child exploitation, a Class C felony, and neglect of a dependent, a Class D felony.

Related to the investigation into this case, Houser's wife, Ellica A. Houser, 37, faces a charge of neglect of a dependent, a Class D felony.

February 27, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man sentenced for Village Pantry robbery



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to four years in prison after he robbed a convenience store in Lafayette.

Joshua Josleyn, 23, of Lafayette robbed the Village Pantry on North 14th Street in November.

As News 18 has already reported, police arrested Josleyn soon after the robbery. The clerk identified him as the man who robbed him and surveillance video confirmed it.

He pleaded guilty last month.

February 27, 2015: WLFITV

Man charged with child molestation, sexual misconduct with a minor

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Tippecanoe County man is charged, accused of having sex with two teenage girls.

Michael Houser, 51, faces ten felonies, including three counts of child molesting and five counts of sexual misconduct with a minor.

According to court documents, he forced two teenage girls to have sex with him on separate occasions in 2011 and 2012.

Charges were filed Thursday, but as of Friday night he has not been booked into the jail.

February 27, 2015: TCPSN

Yesterday, a Tippecanoe County jury found co-defendants Charles Darryl Jenkins, Jr, 22, of Gary, IN and Andre Lavon Brown aka Andre Brown Jr, 23, of East Chicago, IN guilty of on all charges: Conspiracy to Commit Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), Robbery While Armed with a Deadly Weapon (Level 3 Fel), Theft (A Misd), and Theft (A Misd). These charges arose from the armed robbery of the Circle K station on US 52 West in West Lafayette, IN. The sentence hearing is scheduled for 3/28/2015 at 10:00 a.m.

February 27, 2015: TCPSN

Michael D Houser, 51, of West Lafayette, IN has been charged with two (2) counts of Child Molesting (A Fel), three (3) counts of Sexual Misconduct with a Minor (B Fel), two (2) counts of Sexual Misconduct with a Minor (C Fel), Child Molesting (C Fel), Child Exploitation (D Fel), and Neglect of a Dependent (D Fel)

Ellica A Houser, 37, of West Lafayette, IN has been charged with Neglect of a Dependent (D Fel).

All charges were filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 26, 2015: TCPSN

Anthony Bernard McKinney AKA Bernard Anthony Foreman, 43, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Serious Violent Felon in Possession of a Firearm (Level 4 Fel), Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), Operating a Motor Vehicle While Never Receiving a License (C Misd), Carrying a Handgun Without a License While Having a Prior Felony Conviction (Level 5 Fel), and Operating a Motor Vehicle While Never Receiving a License (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 24, 2015: WLFITV

Man sentenced for role in burglaries at Spicy Pickle restaurants



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) – Evan Horrall, 19, was sentenced for conspiracy to commit burglary.

According to prosecutors, managers at Spicy Pickle restaurants at both Union and South 9th Streets in Lafayette reported that more than \$300 had been taken from each location last September.

After reviewing surveillance video, managers believed two former employees, one being Horrall, were involved.

Horrall admitted he aided in the robbery to help a friend bail her boyfriend out of jail.

According to his plea agreement, Horrall will serve 15 months in community corrections and 21 months on probation.

February 23, 2015: WLFITV

Man who breaks into auto repair shop gets 14-year sentence



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WFLI) – Brandon Paris, 29, of Lafayette is sentenced to 14 years after breaking into an auto repair shop.

In 2011, Paris was pulled over for driving down the the wrong side of the road in West Lafayette. His ID card said Bobby Anthony Ross, but he could not provide registration for the car and told officers it was a company car.

Later, officers responded to a break-in at a Lafayette auto repair shop. The owner reported that some money, a shotgun and a customer car had been taken.

Officers sent part of the cash register to state police labs which found Paris' DNA on the drawer last year.

Records show that Paris used Ross' name to check into the jail back in 2011.

He was sentenced to 14 years in prison Monday after pleading guilty to multiple charges.

February 23, 2015: TCPSN

Brandon J Paris, 29, of Lafayette, IN has been sentenced to 14 years for his guilty pleas to Theft (D Fel), Auto Theft (D Fel), Obtaining, Possessing, Transferring, Using Synthetic Identifying Information (D Fel), Operating a Vehicle with at Least 0.08 Gram of Alcohol but Less than 0.15 Gram of Alcohol (C Misd) and Habitual Offender (Sentencing Enhancement).

February 20, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Man charged with child molestation

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Nykie Edwards, 23, of Lafayette was charged Thursday with three counts of child molesting for allegedly having sex with a 13-year-old girl.

Edwards was living with the girl and her mother when the intercourse took place more than five times since the start of last summer, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Lafayette police detectives examined text messages exchanged between Edwards and the victim, including messages exchanged after the girl told her mom about the abuse, the affidavit states.

Jail records indicate that child molestation wasn't the only crime police suspected Edwards had committed when they took him Tuesday to Tippecanoe County Jail.

He was booked on a preliminary allegation of attempted feticide as well, but he hasn't been formally charged with that alleged offense.

Lafayette police Sgt. Jay Rosen said the two suspected crimes were part of the same investigation.

“The feticide is related to the case. It’s not a separate charge,” he said.

Lafayette police Capt. Kurt Wolf confirmed that there was a fetus involved and that it survived, but he declined to disclose who its parents are. There were no injuries, he said.

Rosen referred additional questions to Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington, who was unavailable for comment Friday.

February 20, 2015: TCPSN

Christopher Donnel Sanders, 23, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Battery (Level 5 Fel), Battery: Committed the Offense in the Physical Presence of a Child Less than Sixteen Years Old (Level 6 Fel), Strangulation (Level 6 Fel), Domestic Battery: Committed the Offense in the Physical Presence of a Child Less than Sixteen Years Old (Level 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (Level 6 Fel), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd), and Criminal Trespass (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office.

February 19, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man faces multiple counts of child molesting

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) – Nykie Edwards, 23, of Lafayette faces three charges of child molesting.

According to court documents, he had sex with a teenage girl more than five times from about May to December of 2014.

As of Thursday night, he’s in the Tippecanoe County jail with a bond set at \$157,000.

He’s due back in court March 6.

February 19, 2015: TCPSN

Nykie C Edwards, 23, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with two (2) counts of Child Molesting (Level 1 Fel), and Child Molesting (A Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office.

February 19, 2015: TCPSN

William Edward Smith III, 40, of Hobart, IN was charged today with Possession of Cocaine within 1,000 Feet of Best Western and Village Square Apartments (B Fel), Possession of a Schedule III Controlled Substance within 1,000 Feet of Best Western and Village Square Apartments – Anabolic Steroid (C Fel), Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance within 1,000 Feet of Best Western and Village Square Apartments - Alprazolam (C Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and two (2) counts of Neglect of a Dependent (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office.

February 18, 2015: Purdue Exponent

School shooters could face death penalty in Indiana under new proposal

Republican Sen. Brandt Hershman’s new legislation that would allow school shootings to qualify for the death penalty passed the Senate Committee on Correction and Criminal Law on Tuesday.

The legislation, Senate Bill 385, will allow for sentences of life imprisonment without parole or the death penalty to be sought in instances of aggravated murder on school or university property.

According to Hershman, his legislation was motivated by last year’s murder of Andrew Boldt.

“My hope is that increasing the penalty for school shootings will prevent future tragedies,” said Hershman. “Our children are the future of this state, and criminals that threaten their lives on school grounds should receive punishment to the fullest extent of the law.”

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington testified in support of the bill during the committee meeting. Harrington worked with Hershman to initiate the legislation, noting the importance of protecting Indiana’s youth on school grounds.

The bill will now move to the full Senate for further deliberation.

February 18, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Purdue senior charged with dealing ‘Molly’

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Purdue University senior Jordan McGuire sold synthetic drugs he called “Molly” from his on-campus apartment last year, according to criminal charges filed this week by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s Office.

He faces 10 felony counts, including four drug-dealing charges punishable by up to 20 years apiece.

McGuire, 23, of Logansport was enrolled for the fall semester in the College of Technology, but he’s no longer a student and didn’t graduate, according to the university’s Office of the Registrar.

Court documents state he was living in the first block of North Russell Street, where he sold two different drugs to a confidential informant working with West Lafayette police last spring.

A probable cause affidavit states that the pills McGuire allegedly sold contained Methylone and Ethylone, synthetic drugs that are similar in structure to psychoactive chemicals MDMA and MDEA, respectively.

Considered a “party drug,” MDMA is commonly called “Ecstasy” or “X” among users, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

McGuire wasn’t home when police searched his apartment April 23, finding a container under his bed with drugs hidden in coffee grounds, the affidavit states.

One of his roommates told investigators he knew “Molly” was being sold from the apartment, but neither he nor a third roommate was involved.

McGuire was booked in Tippecanoe County Jail on May 7. He was released the next day on \$25,000 surety plus \$2,500 cash bond, according to jail records.

He’s scheduled to appear for an initial hearing March 6 before Tippecanoe County Magistrate Judge Dan Moore.

February 18, 2015: TCPSN

Robert Allen Stevens, 45, of Indianapolis, IN was charged today with two (2) counts of Fraud on a Financial Institution (Level 5 Fel), two (2) counts of Forgery (Level 6 Fel), and two (2) counts of Theft (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office.

February 17, 2015: CBS 4 INDY

School shooters could face death penalty in Indiana under new proposal

School shooters in Indiana could face the death penalty under a proposal moving through the Statehouse this week.

The bill is in response to the murder of Andrew Boldt at Purdue University last year.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington told lawmakers Tuesday he couldn't seek the death penalty, or life in prison without parole, for Cody Cousins.

Cousins pleaded guilty to killing Boldt in the basement of the electrical engineering building. He later committed suicide.

"Unfortunately as we learned from the case in Lafayette, this individual researched the actual punishment and made a decision that 30 years was worth it," Harrington said in an interview with CBS4. "So it begs the question, what if he knew the death penalty or life without parole was facing him?"

The measure would allow prosecutors to seek either the death penalty or life in prison without parole for murders that happen inside schools, including colleges and universities, and places of worship.

"If this bill doesn't go through, and this occurs again, we don't even have life without parole available to us as prosecutors," Harrington said. "And when I spoke with the family of Andrew Boldt about this, this is what they were most shocked at."

Some voiced concern over a punishment focusing on geography as opposed to the crime and what specifically would constitute school or religious grounds.

The bill still needs approval from the full Senate and House.

February 17, 2015: TCPSN

Jordon T McGuire, 23, of Logansport, IN has been charged with four (4) counts of Dealing in a Schedule I Controlled Substance (B Fel), five (5) counts of Possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance (D Fel), and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 17, 2015: WSBT-TV

Indiana bill could impose death penalty for school shootings

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana lawmakers are moving forward with a proposal that could impose the death penalty for school shootings.

It would allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty or life in prison without parole for murders that happen inside schools.

That includes universities and colleges.

The prosecutor in the Purdue case told lawmakers Tuesday he was shocked to learn he couldn't seek the death penalty for the gunman.

"Unfortunately as we learned from the case in Lafayette this individual researched the actual punishment and made a decision that 30 years was worth it 10 so it begs the question what if he knew the death penalty or life without parole was facing him?," said Pat Harrington, the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor.

The measure still has to pass the full Indiana House and Senate.

February 17, 2015: WLFITV

Bill amending penalty for school shootings advances

By Brittany Tyner

INDIANAPOLIS (WLFI) — Legislation that would allow some school and campus shootings to qualify for the death penalty passes out of a State Senate Committee Tuesday.

As News 18 has reported, Sen. Brandt Hershman sponsored the bill. The motivation behind the bill came after Andrew Boldt was killed by Cody Cousins on Purdue's campus in January of 2014.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington worked with Hershman on the bill. Harrington said Cousins knew that he would not be eligible for the death penalty before he killed Boldt.

The bill would allow for sentences of life without parole and the death penalty. It passed out of the Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law with a 7-2 vote.

"You have a large gathering of students. They should feel safe at all times," Harrington said. "And if someone were to commit a murder inside a school or on a college campus, that should see the ultimate protection, the highest protection and penalty that Indiana has."

An amendment was added to the bill to include places of worship. Harrington said more language will be added to help clarify the exact property or grounds covered by the bill.

The bill now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

News 18's Brittany Tyner will have more details on the bill from Harrington coming up on News 18 at 11.

February 16, 2015: WLFITV

Man sentenced to five decades in prison for child molesting



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A Lafayette man is sentenced to more than five decades in prison for child molesting.

Last month, 20-year-old Payton Jarrard was found guilty of child molesting and pleaded guilty to being a habitual offender.

Prosecutors said last August, Jarrard inappropriately touched an 11-year-old girl.

He was located by authorities in September less than a week after he was featured on News 18's Fugitive Search.

Jarrard is expected to serve about 43 years in prison of his 52-year sentence.

February 16, 2015: WLFITV

Cocaine dealer gets sentence of 20 years



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) – A man connected to a monthslong cocaine investigation gets a 20-year prison sentence.

Shane Thompson, 24, of Hoopeston, Illinois, pleaded guilty last month to cocaine dealing charges.

According to Tippecanoe County prosecutors when Thompson was charged in March 2014, he was part of a drug ring that sold more than 51 grams of cocaine to an undercover officer.

He was sentenced Friday to 12 years in prison and eight years of probation.

February 16, 2015: TCPSN

Payton T Jarrard, 29, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced today to 52 years to be served at the IDOC following a Tippecanoe County jury finding him guilty of Child Molesting (Level 1 Fel) and his guilty plea to Habitual Offender.

February 16, 2015: TCPSN

Melissa Louise Hutcherson, 25, Nichole Hope Boehning, 26, and Curtis Lloyd Kiser, 37, of Lafayette, IN were changed today with the following:

Melissa Louise Hutcherson

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Forgery (Level 6 Fel)

Count II: Forgery (Level 6 Fel)

Count III: Conspiracy to Commit Fraud on a Financial Institution (Level 5 Fel)

Count IV: Theft (A Misd)

Count V: Theft (A Misd)

Count VI: Attempted Theft (A Misd)

Nichole Hope Boehning

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Forgery (Level 6 Fel)

Count II: Forgery (Level 6 Fel)

Count III: Conspiracy to Commit Fraud on a Financial Institution (Level 5 Fel)

Count IV: Theft (A Misd)

Count V: Theft (A Misd)

Count VI: Attempted Theft (A Misd)

Curtis Lloyd Kiser

Count I: Conspiracy to Commit Fraud on a Financial Institution (Level 5 Fel)

Count II: Attempted Theft (A Misd)

All charges were filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 13, 2015: TCPSN

Shane Thompson, 24, of Hoopeston, IL was sentenced to 20 years for his guilty pleas to three (3) counts of Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel). Sentence breakdown: IDOC 12 years, Probation 8 years

February 12, 2015: TCPSN

Gino D Jones, 31, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Intimidation While Using a Deadly Weapon (Level 5 fel), Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd), Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd), False Informing (B Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 12, 2015: WLFITV

Loaded gun found hidden in bed with kids; Lafayette man charged

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man is charged after shots were fired in Lafayette on Saturday.

A neighbor called in a report of shots fired to Lafayette Police Department around 5 a.m. The incident occurred in the 3800 block of Sickie Court. According to Lafayette police, the neighbor was able to identify 31-year-old Gino Jones as the man who threatened him.

Jones allegedly threatened a neighbor while pointing a gun at him after the neighbor asked if Jones had heard gunshots. According to court documents, Jones told the neighbor to “mind his own business.” Documents said Jones approached the neighbor while pointing the gun at him and told him “he was going to kill him.”

The neighbor went back inside, and later told police Jones fled toward Julia Lane in Lafayette. Officers found four spent shell casings in the area of the reported gunshots, and said they followed shoe prints to a residence on Julia Lane.

Police found Jones at that residence. They said Jones initially lied about his name, birthday and other information. Court documents said Jones was resisting law enforcement, and at one point was trying to kick out the back door of the police car.

En route to the jail, officers said Jones admitted to knowing where the gun was and that he fired it. However, he initially told police he didn't have a gun at the home.

Police found the gun at the residence on Julia Lane, as well as rounds that matched the spent casings located near the shooting site. Court documents said the gun — which had two rounds left and one loaded in the chamber — was located hidden between the mattress and box spring. Officers said two children were sleeping on the bed where the loaded gun was located.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors said Jones is charged with intimidation with a deadly weapon, carrying a handgun without a license, resisting law enforcement and false informing.

February 11, 2015: WLFITV

West Lafayette man faces felony charges of arson

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A West Lafayette man has been charged after allegedly trying to set multiple cars on fire.

Christian Newcomb, 22, faces felony charges of arson and attempted arson.

Investigators said in December, Newcomb poured gasoline on five vehicles at Willowbrook West Apartments and tried setting them on fire. When police arrived, they found Newcomb covered in gasoline hiding behind a truck.

Witnesses told police they saw him put a cloth in the gas tank of one of the cars and try to light it.

Police said a gas can Newcomb lit on fire exploded in a dumpster after he was arrested.

February 11, 2015: WLFITV

Two charged after police find drugs in their apartment

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man and woman are charged after officers find heroin and marijuana in their apartment.

Matthew Watkins, 24, and Ferrha Walker, 23, face charges for possession of a narcotic drug, maintaining a common nuisance and possession of marijuana.

Investigators said they found several baggies with residue that tested positive for heroin and marijuana in the couple's apartment. They also found more than 200 needles.

Watkins faces an additional charge of dealing a narcotic drug.

Walker faces an additional charge for obstruction of justice because police said she flushed drugs down the toilet when officers arrived.

February 11, 2015: TCPSN

Christian M Newcomb, 22, of West Lafayette, IN was charged today with Attempted Arson (Level 4 Fel), and Arson (Level 4 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 11, 2015: TCPSN

Matthew Allen Watkins, 24, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Dealing in a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 3 Fel), Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 5 Fel), Possession of Marijuana (B Misd), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (Level 6 Fel).

Ferrha Marquis Walker, 23, of Lafayette, IN has been charged with Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin (Level 5 Fel), Possession of Marijuana (B Misd), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (Level 6 Fel) and Obstruction of Justice (Level 6 Fel)

Charges were filed by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 4, 2015: WLFI

News 18 Investigates: Preventing elder fraud

By Samantha Thieke

TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLFI) — Ninety-one-year-old James Sattler and 70-year-old Ron Getz have lost thousands to the growing epidemic known as elder fraud.

"I have no idea how that was arranged," said Sattler. "How much of it he was keeping. I have no idea how he spent that money."

"Real angry. I mean, I guess he thought he could get by with it real easy or something," said Getz.

Sattler and Getz said they are victims of home improvement fraud, one of many ways the criminals take advantage of their victims financially. Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said in many cases once the crime has been committed, it can be almost impossible to catch the criminal.

“A lot of these individuals will hit a certain geographical area very quickly, like one county or one part of a county, and they move to one county thinking they can avoid detection,” said Harrington.

However, that hasn’t stopped the Tippecanoe County Prosecutors Office from trying to catch these criminals. The prosecutors office along with Tippecanoe County Adult Protective Services works with the community to educate older Americans on elder fraud.

“I don’t want them to become a victim of crime,” said Harrington. “I want them to be aware of what tools they need.”

Adult Protective Services has been out in the community speaking to groups of older Americans about the warning signs and how to report elder fraud. Harrington said the presentations have been eye-opening.

“At one of our presentations a person actually came and reported that he was a victim of one of these financial scams and had been very hesitant to call the police,” Harrington said.

He said sometimes the victims are embarrassed and don’t report the crime. Sometimes it’s just a matter of the victim not having anyone around to help them recognize the warning signs.

“They’re exploiting that sense of loneliness and being trusting, and they know how to do it because they’re professionals at exploitation and taking the person’s money,” said Harrington.

Some of the warning signs include unusual or inappropriate activity in bank accounts, numerous unpaid bills, and missing furniture, jewelry or other valuables. Harrington said family or friends can play a big role in catching criminals in the act.

“If you have a mother or father and they’re telling you that the in-home health caregiver is running errands for them, and going shopping for them,” said Harrington. “That’s a warning sign.”

Harrington said preventing elder fraud can be as simple as having a good relationship with your neighbors.

“Know who your neighbors are,” said Harrington. “Help them out. If they’re elderly, keep an eye on them. Go knock. Introduce yourself. Be a good neighbor for them.”

A simple step that could help protect someone you know from becoming a victim of elder fraud.

“I don’t think these individuals should get probation because they’re pros at it,” said Harrington. “They’re not going to stop.”

The next elder fraud seminar is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. April 22 at the Tippecanoe County Public Library on 27 South St. in Lafayette.

If you or a loved one suspect elder fraud, you can report it by calling Tippecanoe County Adult Protective Services at 765-420-1587.

After Part One of Safeguarding Seniors aired Tuesday night News 18 heard from state police that an IRS scam is making its rounds right now as well.

Police said someone posing as an IRS employee will tell the victim they owe money and ask for a payment over the phone. Police said the IRS will never call to request a payment. If you or a someone you know has received one of these calls you are asked to report it to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center. If you have received one of these fraudulent phone calls, and have paid money, contact your local police department.

Lafayette Police will have a financial crimes workshop at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Lafayette Police Training Center, 1301 South St., in Lafayette. Space is limited to 48 people. If you would like to attend, [click here](#).

February 4, 2015: TCPSN

Today a Tippecanoe County jury found Cory DesArmo guilty of 4 (four) counts of Child Molesting (A Fel), 2 (two) counts of Child Molesting (C Fel), and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Child Molesting (A Fel). The jury also found Elizabeth Carle guilty of 2 (two) counts of Child Molesting (A Fel), one count of Conspiracy to Commit Child Molesting (A Fel), and one count of Neglect of a Dependent (D Fel). The sentencing hearing is scheduled for April 2, 2015. DesArmo faces 20 to 50 years on the A felonies, 2-8 years on the C felonies, the court will decide if the counts run consecutive to each or not. Carle faces 20-50 on the A felonies and 1-3 years on the D felony, again the court will decide if the counts run consecutive to each or not.

February 4, 2015: TCPSN

Charles William Aveline, 32, and Jeremy Gleason, 36, of Lafayette, IN were charged today with Dealing in Methamphetamine (Level 5 Fel), Illegal Drug Lab (Level 6 Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 4, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Couple won't testify in child molestation trial

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

On the advice of their attorneys, a Lafayette couple declined to testify during trial Wednesday, invoking their right to remain silent in the face of allegations they repeatedly molested a young girl over more than two years.

Neither defense team introduced any evidence after Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor Elizabeth Goodrich called her last two witnesses.

Her first witness for the day, Susan Byatt, testified that she had married defendant Cory DesArmo in 2005. They bought a house together three years later, then permitted co-defendant Elizabeth Carle and her 4-year-old daughter to move in with them in 2010.

Byatt testified that she moved out in November 2011, and her divorce from DesArmo was finalized in May 2012.

In June 2013, Carle's daughter accused DesArmo and Carle of sexually abusing her. She took the stand Tuesday, explaining at length precisely how

The state's final witness, Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Lt. Thomas Lehman, was on the stand only a few minutes. He confirmed that he had been called to DesArmo and Carle's residence in the 4500 block of Chisolm Trail to investigate.

Lehman identified both defendants in their mugshots and pointed to each in the courtroom. He also confirmed that the state's photo of DesArmo and Carle's house was the house where he met them during his investigation.

Goodrich rested her case at about 9:15 a.m., with both defense attorneys following suit at about noon.

Tippecanoe Circuit Court Judge Tom Busch recessed for a lunch break and said the trial will reconvene for closing arguments at 1 p.m.

This story will be updated.

February 3, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Child testifies about alleged sex abuse

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

An 8-year-old girl clutching a stuffed puppy took the stand Tuesday morning in Tippecanoe Circuit Court.

Dry-eyed and matter-of-fact, she told the jury — a panel of five men and seven women — that her mother and her mother's boyfriend had regularly molested her in their Lafayette home.

Asked by Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor Elizabeth Goodrich to define the words "truth" and "lie," the girl affirmed her understanding of what it means to offer testimony under oath.

The child testified that the boyfriend, Cory DesArmo, on multiple occasions instructed her to commit sex acts and that her mother, Elizabeth Carle, would sometimes then also touch her in a sexual manner.

"It felt like I was going to choke and die," the girl told the jury. "It made me feel like I was going to throw up, and I did throw up."

She never told the adults to stop because they had threatened her, she said.

"They told me I couldn't tell anyone else, or else they'd go to jail, and I'd go to jail, too," she said.

The girl was 6 years old in June 2013 when she told her grandmother about the offenses, which were allegedly committed over the course of 2 1/2 years.

The child — who's not being named because she's the victim of an alleged sex crime — testified that her mother met DesArmo via "World of Warcraft," an online role-playing game, and he invited Carle to move in with him and his wife.

Kirk Freeman, who was appointed to serve as Carle's defense attorney, said during opening remarks Tuesday that the three adults "settled in together" and had an open relationship until DesArmo's wife moved out.

He said the state has evidence of a filthy home and an alternative lifestyle, but no crime.

"There'll be no evidence of any crime, sexual or the like," he said.

While the girl lived in Indiana, she visited her paternal grandparents in Arizona regularly. She now lives with them full time.

Robin Shellow, DesArmo's defense attorney, asked the girl to differentiate between her experiences in each state.

Living in Arizona means plenty of fun activities, warm weather, great food and a structured home life. Living in Indiana, however, meant eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches most of the time while residing in "a house of chaos," the girl said.

During his opening statement Tuesday, Freeman told jurors the alleged victim is "telling stories to get what she wants."

Her relatives, in turn, are seizing on certain details to get what they want, he added.

Freeman and Shellow said during jury selection Monday that they would scrutinize the girl's testimony with a grueling cross-examination.

But after the prosecution had the girl describe the alleged sex acts in graphic detail, the defense attorneys largely avoided rehashing the testimony. Instead, they questioned the girl about when and where she attended school and what her home life was like.

The girl said it was common for DesArmo — whom she sometimes called Dad, accidentally — to walk around the house naked.

When presented with mug shots of DesArmo and her mother, the girl correctly identified each by name. But when she was asked by the prosecution to point out the defendants in the courtroom, she identified Freeman, the defense attorney.

Goodrich asked her to clarify, and the girl said she thought the man in the yellow tie, Freeman, was her mother's boyfriend.

DesArmo, who's pictured with a scraggly beard in his mug shot, was clean-shaven and wearing a suit in court, seated three seats away from Freeman.

Jacqueline Hess, a nurse practitioner at Phoenix Children's Hospital, conducted two medical exams on the girl in June 2013.

She testified that, though she found no evidence of sexual trauma, her findings don't disprove the possibility that sexual abuse took place.

The prosecution called two other witnesses Tuesday, and Goodrich said she anticipates calling five more on Wednesday before yielding the floor to the defense.

Goodrich said DesArmo's ex-wife — their divorce was finalized in 2012 — could be among those who testify.

Judge Tom Busch said the trial will continue at 8:30 a.m.

February 3, 2015: TCPSN

Jeffery Allen Feeney, 46, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Dealing in Methamphetamine (Level 2 Fel), Dealing in Methamphetamine (Level 3 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Level 4 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Level 5 Fel), Possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance — Psilocyn or Psilocybin (Level 6 Fel), Possession of a Schedule I Controlled Substance — Psilocyn or Psilocybin (A Misd), Dealing in a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (Level 6 Fel), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), Criminal Recklessness (B Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 3, 2015: TCPSN

Mitchell Ray Decker, 28, and Erica Marie Shires, 34, of Boswell, IN have been charged with Possession of a Narcotic Drug in the presence of a child — Heroin (Level 5 Fel), Neglect of a Dependent (Level 6 Fel), Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd), Possession of Marijuana (B Misd), and Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

February 2, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Couple's child molestation trial begins

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Defense attorneys representing a Lafayette couple charged with conspiring to molest a young girl over the course of 2 1/2 years warned jurors Monday that they plan to pose some tough questions to the alleged victim when she takes the stand.

The girl was 6 years old when she told authorities in Arizona that Cory DesArmo and his live-in girlfriend, Elizabeth Carle, had performed sex acts on her, including one act that made her feel as though she was "going to die," court documents state.

DesArmo and Carle were arrested July 9, 2013, and booked into Tippecanoe County Jail, where they've remained.

Kirk Freeman, who represents Carle, said all defendants have a right to face their accusers, whether they're adults or children.

Scrutinizing the girl's account is "just the right thing to do," he said.

Robin Shellow, a Wisconsin-based attorney whose website lists among her specialties defending those wrongly accused of child sexual abuse, represents DesArmo.

Shellow addressed prospective jurors at length, offering a preview of what to expect over the coming days of trial.

"This is going to be a long, difficult cross-examination, where I am going to be testing the truth of a child," she said, noting that she's "scared to death" the jury might find some of her questions offensive then hold it against her client.

Jurors will be presented with photos of the squalid conditions authorities found in DesArmo and Carle's home, but such conditions provide no evidence of guilt in the present case, she said.

If anything, the photos could explain an alternative reason why a little girl might not want to live with her client, she added.

Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor Elizabeth Goodrich will make the state's case, arguing that DesArmo committed six Class A felony acts of child molestation punishable by up to 50 years apiece. Carle allegedly committed two such acts.

They each face additional lesser charges, including a Class C felony alleging that they conspired to molest the victim.

Tippecanoe Circuit Court Judge Tom Busch said the trial will continue Tuesday morning and likely last multiple days thereafter.

"We've got a long week ahead of us," he said.

January 30, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Mid-level drug dealer sentenced to 35 years

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Local cocaine and heroin distributor Charles Hunter III was sentenced Friday to 35 years in prison.

The 26-year-old father of two pleaded guilty to two felony drug-dealing charges after undercover officers caught him selling generously portioned narcotics last year in five different controlled buys.

"We've seen bigger amounts, but these are significant," said West Lafayette police Sgt. Jonathan Eager during Hunter's sentencing hearing.

Based on the fact that Hunter sold a confidential informant as much as half an ounce of cocaine at a time, it's clear that he's "not a street-level dealer," Eager said.

Hunter was at least a middle man selling to other dealers.

He fell under the scrutiny of the Tippecanoe County Drug Task Force and U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency after he supplied cocaine for a dealer busted in January 2014, Eager said.

Hunter's defense attorney, Russell Brown Jr., asked Eager whether authorities had attached a tracking device to his client's car. Eager confirmed that they had, in fact, been tracking his movements after securing multiple search warrants to do so.

Brown later requested that authorities be ordered to release back to Hunter's family the personal belongings police seized during their investigation, but Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor Jennifer Keifer argued that the items shouldn't be released just yet because Hunter remains under investigation for other possible offenses.

Hunter's fiancée and mother testified during his sentencing hearing. They asked Judge Tom Busch to be lenient, so Hunter could support his two young sons.

Hunter read a letter to the court, apologizing to his family and friends for leading "a double-life."

"It feels good to be able to get this all out in the open," he said. "Living that way takes a huge toll on your mind, body and soul."

January 30, 2015: TCPSN



Charles David Hunter, 26, from Gary, IN was sentenced to 35 years IDOC for his guilty pleas to Dealing Cocaine, (A Fel) and Dealing in Heroin, (A Fel).

January 30, 2015: TCPSN

Nashid Muhammad, 37, from Chicago, IL was sentenced to 7 years today for his guilty pleas to Intimidation, (C Fel) and Domestic Battery, (D Fel). Sentence breakdown: 4 years IDOC, 3 years TCCC, Mental Health Programs.

January 28, 2015: TCPSN

Aaron Mikeal Spencer, 23, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Dealing in Methamphetamine in the presence of children ages 7 and 5 (Level 3 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine in the presence of children ages 7 and 5 (Level 3 Fel), Illegal Drug Lab (Level 6 Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and Resisting Law Enforcement (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

January 28, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged in recent meth lab bust

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A recent meth lab bust leads to charges for a Lafayette man.

Aaron Spencer, 23, was arrested early morning Friday, Jan. 23 after officers smelled meth while serving a warrant on Stillwell Street in Lafayette.

Spencer now faces five charges, including felony charges for an illegal drug lab and possession of and dealing in methamphetamine. He is also charged with resisting law enforcement and possession of paraphernalia.

January 24, 2015: WLFITV

Proposed bill to protect juveniles involved in human trafficking

By Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — A proposed bill would treat juveniles involved in human and sexual trafficking as victims not criminals.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said the Interstate 65 corridor sees a large amount of juvenile trafficking. Under the bill, he said if police come in contact with a child that's been forced into human or sex trafficking — they won't be arrested, but the Department of Child Services will be notified.

Harrington said this has been an issue in Tippecanoe County. He said a lot of the time the juveniles involved are runaways or are in the country illegally.

"They're afraid to cooperate or seek help for fear of either criminal prosecution or deportation," Harrington explained. "That basically turns them right back over to their pimps, the people who are forcing them into this sex slavery and prostitution."

The bill, House Bill 1216, is sponsored by State Rep. Randy Truitt.

The bill passed the Indiana House Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs this week. It is set to be heard by the House on Monday.

January 24, 2015: WANE

Bill makes school shooting deaths eligible for death penalty

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A person convicted of a fatal shooting on school grounds could face the death penalty under legislation proposed by an Indiana lawmaker.

Republican Sen. Brandt Hershman of Buck Creek says he authored the bill in response to the Jan. 21, 2014, slaying of Purdue University student Andrew Boldt in a crowded classroom.

Another student, Cody Cousins, pleaded guilty in August to fatally shooting and stabbing the West Bend, Wisconsin, student in a basement classroom of Purdue's Electrical Engineering Building. Cousins was sentenced to 65 years in prison but committed suicide in his cell in October.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington told the Journal & Courier that he couldn't seek the death penalty in Cousins' case due to a lack of "aggravating circumstances" under Indiana law.

Harrington said Hershman's bill would make a shooting at a school or university one of nearly 20 aggravating factors under which prosecutors can seek the death penalty or life without parole in murder cases. Other aggravating circumstances include murder in combination with another felony or killing more than one person or a law enforcement official.

"It's something the law needs to address, because when you go into a classroom and do something like this type of horrendous act, someone loses their life, but you have children or students that are basically victims, too, because they have to go through this," Harrington said.

Harrington said Cousins was aware that he wouldn't face the death penalty before he killed Boldt.

"He knew exactly what the punishment in Indiana was when killing someone, and to him it was worth it. The amount of time, 50 to 55 years in prison, didn't bother him," Harrington said. "What if he knew the death penalty was there in front of him?"

The bill has been assigned to the Senate judiciary committee.

January 23, 2015: The Exponent

Purdue alumnus using degree to solve crime through cyber forensics

BY LEAH SCHMIDT Staff Reporter

Purdue alumnus Sean Leshney compares his job to CBS's hit television show, "NCIS."

Working as the chief digital forensic investigator at the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office, Leshney helps take digital evidence from anything with a digital footprint and applies it to see what the truth is.

"The best thing about digital evidence is that it's not biased towards the defense or the prosecutors," Leshney said. "It is what it is."

Leshney's journey of becoming a digital forensic investigator started at Purdue in 1999. Leshney came to Purdue on an ROTC scholarship and studied computer information and technology in the College of Technology. While at Purdue, he was involved with the ROTC and worked as a police officer for the West Lafayette Police Department.

"After graduating in 2003, I started working for Lafayette Police Department full time," said Leshney. "At the time, there was a high need for computer forensics specialists."

Purdue had just started a cyber forensics program with the help of Dr. Marc Rogers, the current director of cyber forensics. Leshney started working for his master's degree in 2006 and helped further develop the program with Dr. Rogers.

After finishing up his master's in 2008, Leshney started working for the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office. One of his first cases, which he started working on just weeks after he began his position, sticks with him to this day.

"In November of 2008, a woman was killed by a drunk driver. The big question of the case was who was at fault, specifically who had run the red light and who had had the green light," Leshney said. "We had to go back on the video surveillance to prove that he was the one who had hit her. It was a very sad case."

That is just one of the many cases that Leshney has worked on over the last seven years. Pat Harrington, the Tippecanoe County prosecutor, has been working closely with Leshney over the course of his entire career at the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

Harrington works with Leshney every day and compares him to a "child on Christmas day."

"He's extremely dedicated and excited about his work and will come to us with everything he finds," said Harrington. "He has helped prove so many cases and we're fortunate to have him on our team."

January 23, 2015: WLFITV

Robinson asks judge for extension to hire attorney

By Krista Henery

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – The former McCutcheon High School teacher charged with child seduction asked a judge Friday morning for two more weeks to hire an attorney.

Jakob Robinson is accused of having sex with a 16-year-old female student.

Prosecutors said while the relationship began in October, the two met when the girl was a freshman in Robinson's gym class.

The Tippecanoe School Corporation officially terminated Robinson's contract on Thursday.

Superintendent Scott Hanback released a statement Thursday saying McCutcheon is a strong school, and it will continue to handle the situation with as much care and dignity as possible.

Robinson's next court hearing is scheduled for Feb. 6

January 23, 2015: WLFITV

Man charged for alleged meth lab in his backpack

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A homeless man is charged for allegedly carrying an active methamphetamine lab in a backpack.

Donavan Love, 26, has been charged with three felonies including possession of and dealing in methamphetamine.

According to court documents, Love fit the description of a man police were looking for in connection with an armed robbery. When officers found him walking on Greenbush Avenue, near 14th Street, they noticed a strong odor coming from his bag.

Love confirmed that he had a one-pot meth lab in his backpack.

The Indiana State Police Meth Suppression Team was called to the scene to dismantle the lab.

January 23, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Jail house fight gets inmate 5 years in prison



A jail cell assault in October 2013 has earned Quinton Newsom, 24, of Lafayette a six-year sentence.

Newsom was sentenced Friday in Tippecanoe Superior 2 to five years in the department of correction with one additional year suspended.

Newsom punched an inmate in his cell block after an argument, knocking him out, according to prosecutors. For this, he was charged with battery with serious bodily injury. Newsom had pleaded guilty to the charge with the understanding that the prison sentence would range between three and five years. Given Newsom's prior record, it was determined that he should serve five years in prison, according to a sentencing summary.

January 23, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Principal's letter sheds light on coach's arrest

Mikel Livingston, mlivingston@jconline.com

A newly released public record illustrates the circumstances leading up to former McCutcheon High School teacher Jakob Robinson's arrest.

Robinson, who was fired by the Tippecanoe School Corp. board on Thursday, faces five charges of child seduction, felonies punishable by one to six years each.

The letter, released to the Journal & Courier following a public record request, is a Jan. 14 letter from Principal John Beeker to Robinson in which Beeker lays out the facts leading up to his recommendation that the board immediately terminate Robinson's teaching contract.

The letter alleges that Robinson actively misled McCutcheon officials on the nature of his relationship with the student and that he attempted to have TSC's technology department re-image his computer to destroy evidence.

In December, shortly before winter break, a patron saw Robinson and the student in public and notified school administrators that Robinson's "relationship with the student appeared to exceed a normal student-teacher relationship."

Then, on Dec. 18, the Thursday before winter break, two administrators watching the school's surveillance cameras witnessed Robinson and the student leave the school at lunch time.

"They subsequently observed you take the student into a residence off campus," Beeker wrote to Robinson in the letter.

When the pair returned to campus, Beeker confronted Robinson about his behavior. Robinson told Beeker he took the girl to his parents' residence, where he was living, because he had to pick up money for lunch.

Beeker then asked Robinson if he was engaged in an inappropriate relationship with the student.

"You adamantly denied the existence of an inappropriate relationship with this student and explained that you were only serving as a mentor for the student with the student's mother's knowledge and consent," Beeker wrote.

Beeker told Robinson his actions were unacceptable and constituted a serious lapse in professional judgment.

At that point, officials knew Robinson had violated school policy by transporting a student in his car without the school's permission. But they did not yet have any knowledge of any criminal activity on the part of Robinson, said TSC Superintendent Scott Hanback when interviewed this week.

It's not unheard of for teachers to take their student assistants to lunch during finals week, Hanback said. The district's internal investigation, along with that of law enforcement, found McCutcheon officials acted appropriately.

"You have to ask who knew what and when," Hanback said. "Those questions were asked by both investigating parties and based on the knowledge the principals had at the time, they acted the way they were supposed to."

"The fact that (Robinson) was being less than truthful speaks to me that the principal didn't ignore any concerns but acted on the information they had available to them at the time."

On Jan. 9, five days into the new semester, Tippecanoe County sheriff's deputies arrived, requesting to interview the student.

Robinson was walking down the hallway with the student when he saw the officers in the school's office, Beeker's letter says.

Robinson then approached the school's technology technician and asked them to re-image his computer, claiming it was infected with viruses and malware. The district was able to recover emails from Robinson's computer that revealed he "exchanged emails with this student very late at night."

Later that day, Robinson was arrested at the school and placed on paid administrative leave.

The district on Thursday formally severed ties to Robinson, firing him for immorality, insubordination, neglect of duty and other good and just cause.

Prior to termination, Robinson had the option of requesting a private conference with Hanback or the school board but didn't request either.

January 22, 2015: TCPSN

Media Release: January 22, 2015

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Owners of Mexican restaurant chain charged, forfeit \$4.53M An estimated one quarter of restaurant sales went unreported to state

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry and Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington announced today that three owners of a statewide restaurant chain have been charged with Theft and have agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges related to failure to report accurate sales figures to the state. Francisco Salgado, Jose Melendez and Abel Bustos are alleged to have underreported an estimated \$22.7 million in sales by the El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant and El Jaripeo Mexican Restaurant chain. Under separate civil filings, the defendants have agreed to forfeit \$4.53 million to state and local authorities, including the Indiana Department of Revenue and Marion and Tippecanoe counties.

Salgado and Melendez have each agreed to plead guilty to 10 counts of Theft (D Felonies). Bustos has agreed to plead guilty to two counts of Theft (D Felonies).

"We know that this conduct is widespread. We will continue to investigate leads regarding those businesses which fail to remit sales tax, and we will prosecute those who fail to pay their fair share," Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry commented. "Businesses that fail to remit the full amount of taxes due are not only neglecting their responsibility as members of their community, they are gaining unfair advantage over those businesses which play by the rules and are ultimately committing a crime."

"This investigation started months before search warrants were executed in November, 2013. It has involved multiple agencies, and the review and audit of a massive amount of financial records. This investigation will serve as a template for future white collar and tax investigation cases," Tippecanoe Prosecutor Pat Harrington added.

In May 2013, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office Grand Jury Division, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office, West Lafayette Police, and Lafayette Police Department began a joint investigation into the business practices of the El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant and El Jaripeo Mexican Restaurant chain operating throughout the state. The investigation targeted 26 restaurants located in Boone, Clinton, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Tippecanoe and Wayne counties.

According to the probable cause affidavit filed in the case, an analysis completed on the restaurants' sales for 2010 through 2012 estimated that more than 25 percent of the sales were not reported to the state. Evidence

uncovered in the course of the investigation demonstrated that defendants engaged in a number of methods to conceal and thus underreport cash sales. For example, investigators seized ghost books by way of search warrants which show the willful underreporting of sales. Likewise, undercover investigators observed evidence of cash skimming at the register of restaurants through the use of a calculator instead of the register to calculate bills, making change out of an open cash register drawer, and failing to provide a receipt.

The forfeiture and restitution of \$4.53 million will come from funds previously seized in the course of the investigation. Approximately \$1.86 million will be paid as restitution to the Indiana Department of Revenue for unpaid sales tax and unpaid food and beverage tax, which is comprised of approximately \$1.59 million in unpaid sales tax and \$275,000 in unpaid food and beverage tax to several counties and municipalities, including Marion County.

The remaining balance of will be forfeited between Marion and Tippecanoe counties to be dispersed to various public safety agencies involved in the investigation.

Initial hearings have been set for February 2 at 9:00 a.m. in Marion County Criminal Court 15.

A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

January 22, 2015: Indianapolis Star

3 El Rodeo owners pleading guilty to theft

Kristine Guerra, kristine.guerra@indystar.com

Three owners of El Rodeo and El Jaripeo Mexican restaurants who are accused of underreporting about \$22.7 million in restaurant sales are pleading guilty to multiple theft charges, prosecutors announced Thursday.

El Rodeo owners Francisco Salgado and Jose Melendez are each pleading guilty to 10 counts of theft. A third defendant, Abel Bustos, is pleading guilty to two counts of theft. All charges are Class D felonies.

The charges resulted from a months-long grand jury investigation of business practices at 26 restaurants in 10 counties, including Marion and Tippecanoe.

Prosecutors said Thursday that the owners will forfeit about \$4.5 million to state and local authorities. Of that, about \$1.8 million will be paid as restitution to the Indiana Department of Revenue for unpaid sales, food and beverage taxes. The rest will be divided among law-enforcement agencies involved in the investigation. The forfeiture will come from funds seized during a raid in November 2013.

According to a probable cause affidavit, more than 25 percent of restaurant sales from 2010 to 2012 were not reported to the state. An auditor with the Department of Revenue estimated that the restaurants' total sales during that time period were about \$88.2 million, but only \$65.4 million was reported to the state.



El Rodeo restaurant empire accused of money laundering

That means, according to court documents, that the restaurant chain did not pay nearly \$1.6 million in sales taxes and about \$274,000 in food and beverage taxes.

Prosecutors allege employees used several methods to avoid recording sales. For instance, according to court documents, a cashier may input the total in the cash register, and then "zero out" that total and open the cash drawer to make the change. Undercover detectives also observed cashiers using calculators, instead of cash registers, to calculate change — a practice known as skimming.

"To summarize this investigation in a couple of minutes doesn't do justice to the magnitude of this case," Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry said at a news conference with Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

The investigation began in May 2013, when El Rodeo Mexican restaurants and other businesses outside the chain became the target of a multi-jurisdictional grand jury investigation. Harrington said the probe involved the review and audit of "a massive amount of financial records" — documents that he said filled three vans.

Police raided El Rodeo locations in Indianapolis, as well as Tippecanoe and Wayne counties. Indiana State Police also searched at least one ElJaripeo Mexican Restaurant — in New Palestine — which is part of another chain owned and operated by El Rodeo principal Francisco Salgado, Indianapolis, and secretary, Jose Melendez, Fortville.

Last February, prosecutors from Marion and Tippecanoe counties filed civil forfeiture lawsuits against El Rodeo and dozens of interconnected restaurants and business entities. The lawsuits initially listed 30 defendants.

The value of the forfeitures total more than \$5 million. Investigators seized more than \$2.7 million in U.S. currency, two vehicles that are the equivalent of \$1.1 million in foreign currency, 15 Mexican gold coins and one unknown gold coin.

Curry said the vehicles have been returned to the defendants in exchange for them agreeing to forfeit about \$4.5 million.

According to the plea agreements filed Thursday, none of the defendants will have to spend a day in prison.

Salgado's and Melendez's plea deals with prosecutors call for a sentence of not more than 10 years. Bustos' plea deal caps his sentence at four years.

None of the defendants have been sentenced yet. All three, who are not in custody, are scheduled to appear for a hearing at 9 a.m. Feb. 2 in Marion County Criminal Court 15.

Curry acknowledged that such illegal activities are widespread.

"We will continue to investigate leads regarding those businesses which fail to remit sales tax, and we will prosecute those who fail to pay their fare share," he said in a news release.

The investigations did not involve drugs or illegal immigration. Curry said all the restaurants remain open.

Star reporters John Tuohy and Justin Mack contributed to this story.

Call Star reporter Kristine Guerra at (317) 444-6209. Follow her on Twitter: @kristine_guerra.

The 20 El Rodeo Mexican restaurants that were investigated are located at:

140 Frontage Road, Suite 5, Lafayette
3611 E. Main St., Richmond
2606 N. High School Road, Indianapolis
11677 Fox Road, Indianapolis
4000 W. 106th St., Suite 185, Carmel
500 Town Center Drive North, Mooresville
2404 National Road West, Richmond
2203 N. Ind. 9, Greenfield
9546 Allisonville Road, Suite 127, Indianapolis
140 Howard Avenue, West Lafayette
14160 Mundy Drive, Suite 900, Noblesville
11452 Olio Road, Fishers
8128 E. U.S. 36, Avon
109 Beck Lane, Suite 120, Lafayette
7411 Heathrow Way, Indianapolis
3113 W. Smith Valley Road, Suite A, Greenwood
6673 E. Ind. 334, Zionsville
5501 W. 86th St., Indianapolis
5635 Mutual Lane, Indianapolis
250 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis

The six ElJarapeo Mexican restaurants that were investigated are located at:

30 Washington Pointe Drive, Indianapolis
2330 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon
2685 E. Main St., Suite 121, Plainfield
3020 Ind. 32 East, Westfield
2000 E. Wabash St., Frankfort
38 W. Main St., New Palestine

Lafayette man charged over bizarre child porn

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Noblesville police were looking to catch those who download and share child pornography over the Internet when they encountered a Lafayette man nearly three years ago known online as "sexylover72."

Local police searched the man's home Aug. 23, 2012, and seized computer equipment that contained videos of bondage-style sex abuse and other bizarre acts involving boys and girls as young as 8 years old, according to court documents.

One video involved intercourse with a man dressed as a clown.

Seven felony charges were filed Tuesday against 28-year-old Luis Jesus Duran, who reportedly admitted downloading child pornography and using a file-sharing network to disseminate it further.

He faces up to eight years in prison for each of the three child exploitation charges, one for each of the three videos Noblesville police were able to download from his user name.

He faces up to three years for each of the four child pornography charges.

Duran was arrested the day his home was searched, then he was released on bond, according to jail records.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said about 29 months passed between Duran's admission and his formal charges because federal law enforcement investigated then sent the case back to local authorities.

Lafayette police then had to comb through Duran's files collecting evidence, Harrington noted.

Court records indicate that Duran has been ordered to appear for an initial hearing Feb. 6 in Tippecanoe Magistrate Court. If he doesn't show, a warrant will be issued for his arrest.

January 22, 2015: WTHR

State senator pushes to expand death penalty reach to schools, campuses

By Kevin Rader, WTHR political reporter

INDIANAPOLIS - An Indiana lawmaker wants to expand the reach prosecutors have to pursue the death penalty.

There are currently 16 factors prosecutors in the state can consider when pursuing the death penalty. Killing a child or a police officer are two of those factors, but there isn't one for location. Senator Brandt Hershman (R-Buck Creek) wants to change that to include schools and college campuses.

No one at the Indiana Statehouse could hear the bells that tolled on the Purdue University campus Wednesday.

They tolled for Andrew Boldt. The bells marked the one year anniversary of his on-campus killing.

"Safety has become something people think more about, therefore we need to provide them the tools and procedures to try to make them as safe as possible," Ronnie Wright, the director of Emergency Preparedness and Planning at Purdue University, told Eyewitness News Wednesday.

Hershman believes that concern stretches all the way to the Statehouse. Hershman became concerned when Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington informed him he would not be able to seek the death penalty against Purdue suspect Cody Cousins.

"There are a number of factors to be considered in proposing the death penalty in Indiana. Committing murder on school grounds is not one of them," Hershman said.

So Cousins was sentenced to 65 years in prison after pleading guilty to Boldt's murder. Cousins then took his own life in a state prison last October.

"In this case, you are looking at a particularly vulnerable population. I think the public policy that we want our schools to be as safe as possible suggests that this makes sense," Hershman continued.

He is hoping it might be a future deterrent. He couldn't hear the bells tolling at Purdue on Wednesday. He just wants to make sure no one else has to hear them again either.

Senate Bill 385 has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee and could be up for a hearing as early as next week.

January 22, 2015: WLFITV

El Rodeo owners charged; allegedly underreported \$22.7M in sales

By Kyle Bloyd

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (WLFI) — The owners of the El Rodeo and El Jaripeo restaurant chain have agreed to plead guilty to a combined 10 felony counts of theft.

In a press conference in Indianapolis, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington and Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced that the owners allegedly underreported \$22.7 million in sales.

In separate civil filings, owners Francisco Salgado, Jose Melendez and Abel Bustos have agree to forfeit \$4.53 million to state and local authorities.

Prosecutors say Salgado and Melendez have each agreed to plead guilty to 10 felony counts of theft, while Bustos will plead guilty to two counts of theft. All are D felonies.

The investigation into this case began in May 2013. The Marion County Prosecutor's Office Grand Jury Division, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office, West Lafayette Police and Lafayette Police Department worked together to target 26 restaurants in 10 counties.

One of the key pieces of evidence they used was invoices for the costs of goods the restaurants were buying as well as bank deposits. Prosecutors say in a typical restaurant, 40 to 60 percent of deposits will be cash. In this case, it was just over 7 percent.

"This investigation started months before search warrants were executed in November 2013," said Harrington. "It has involved multiple agencies, and the review and audit of a massive amount of financial records."

"We know that this conduct is widespread," said Curry. "We will continue to investigate leads regarding those businesses which fail to remit sales tax, and we will prosecute those who fail to pay their fair share. Businesses that fail to remit the full amount of taxes due are not only neglecting their responsibility as members of their community, they are gaining unfair advantage over those businesses which play by the rules and are ultimately committing a crime."

A probable cause affidavit reveals that an estimated 25 percent of sales were not reported from 2010-2012.

The forfeiture of \$4.53 million comes from funds previously seized during the investigation. As part of restitution, approximately \$1.86 million will be paid to the Indiana Department of Revenue. The remaining funds will be split between public safety agencies in Marion and Tippecanoe counties involved in the investigation.

Authorities now hope the collaboration they used with various agencies can be more than a one-time thing.

“This model of this investigation that we’ve learned through our cooperation with Marion County and the Department of Revenue will work as a template for future investigations,” said Harrington.

Prosecutors said the three owners are all from the same family.

Initial hearings for the defendants have been set for Feb. 2 in Marion County.

Prosecutors added the restaurants are expected to stay open.

January 22, 2015: WISHTV

Prosecutors: Mexican restaurant chain underreported sales



WISH Photo

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) – Three Mexican restaurant owners of central Indiana chain have been charged with theft and will plead guilty to criminal charges.

The Marion County Prosecutor, Terry Curry, and Tippecanoe County Prosecutor, Pat Harrington, announced that three owners of a Central Indiana Mexican restaurant chain have been underreporting up to \$22.7 million in sales.

The owners of El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant and El Jaripeo Mexican Restaurant chain, identified as Francisco Salgado, Jose Melendez and Abel Bustos have agreed to relinquish \$4.53 million to Indiana authorities.

Salgado and Melendez have agreed to plead guilty on 10 counts of theft, while Bustos will plead guilty to two counts of theft.

According to the MCPO, up to a quarter of restaurant sales were not reported.

Owners of El Rodeo, El Jaripeo restaurants plead guilty in theft case; \$4.5 million seized

BY MATT ADAMS - WEB PRODUCER AND RUSS MCQUAID

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 22, 2015) – The grand jury investigation of the El Rodeo restaurant chain in central Indiana began when a police officer paid for lunch.

“Our Tippacanoe County Prosecutors Office became involved when a detective from the West Lafayette Police Department ate at our local El Rodeo and he noticed as he paid for his lunch the cash drawer was never opened,” said Prosecutor Pat Harrington. “No one rang up his sale and he was returned his cash back out of another drawer.”

That detective had been trained to spot money laundering and payment of his lunch tab turned into a probe that resulted in the guilty pleas of three owners to multiple counts of theft and \$4.5 million in forfeiture.

Francisco Salagado and Jose Melendez each pleaded guilty to ten counts, Abel Bustos to two counts, and each man faces ten years in prison.

Their initial hearings are set for February 2 in Marion Superior Court.

“The owners of those restaurants systematically skimmed cash from those restaurants in order to avoid paying sales tax and food and beverage tax on their sales,” said Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry. “In Indiana you would anticipate that 40-60% of the deposits into a restaurant’s operations accounts would be cash deposits. As set forth in the probable cause, in looking at the 26 restaurants, 7.25 percent of the deposits were cash.”

Curry said the chain underreported its sales by \$22,780,000 while underpaying its taxes by \$1.86 million.

“We understand that this practice goes on and one of the things we hope to demonstrate by this investigation and this resolution is we’re watching,” said Curry. “This practice is widespread and to the extent that we learn of other restaurants and businesses that engage in this sort of skimming and failure to live up to their obligations to the state and correspondingly gain an unfair advantage over competitors, we will investigate those cases.”

The complex investigation lasted more than two years.

“We actually had three vans full of documents and business records that fortunately for us the auditors at the Department of Revenue were able to crunch those numbers and lead us to the evidence,” said Harrington.

Curry said the investigation covered 26 restaurants throughout central Indiana from 2010-2012.

The chain will remain open and under the scrutiny of state tax auditors.

Investigators could have seized and closed down the restaurants but chose not to.

Curry said there are no other investigations of El Rodeo being conducted at this time.

January 22, 2015: The Elkhart Truth

Eatery chain owners to plead guilty to theft over sales Prosecutors: Mexican restaurant chain owners to plead guilty to theft,

didn't report sale

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The owners of a chain of Mexican restaurants in 10 Indiana counties will plead guilty to theft charges and forfeit \$4.53 million for not reporting accurate sales figures to the state, prosecutors said Thursday.

The owners charged operated a chain of 26 restaurants with the names El Rodeo and El Jaripeo. Francisco Salgado of Indianapolis and Jose Melendez of Fishers each have agreed to plead guilty to 10 counts of theft, and Abel Bustos of Lafayette agreed to plead guilty to two counts of theft, the prosecutors said.

The three men are accused of not reporting an estimated \$22.7 million in sales between 2010 and 2012.

"We know that this conduct is widespread. We will continue to investigate leads regarding those businesses which fail to remit sales tax, and we will prosecute those who fail to pay their fair share," Marion County prosecutor Terry Curry said at a news conference.

The investigation began months before search warrants were executed at several El Rodeo restaurants in November 2013, Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said.

"It has involved multiple agencies, and the review and audit of a massive amount of financial records. This investigation will serve as a template for future white collar and tax investigation cases," Harrington said in a prepared statement.

An investigation by the prosecutors' offices and Lafayette police found the restaurants often failed to give customers a receipt, kept ghost books and skimmed cash at registers. An analysis of the restaurants' sales for 2010 through 2012 estimated that more than 25 percent of the sales were not reported to the state, the prosecutors said.

The \$4.53 million forfeiture, which will come from funds previously seized by authorities, will be divided among the Indiana Department of Revenue for unpaid food and beverage tax, local counties and municipalities that are owed unpaid taxes and the agencies involved in the investigation.

Prosecutors last February filed civil forfeiture lawsuits against El Rodeo and dozens of affiliated restaurants and business entities. The lawsuit, which lists nearly 30 defendants, accused the chain of being a money-laundering operation.

Sean Hessler, one of the men's attorneys, said he expected the men to take plea agreements soon. He declined to comment further.

Initial hearings are scheduled for Feb. 2 in Marion Superior Court.

January 22, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man faces drug-related charges

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man faces several drug-related charges.

Cortez Knight, 23, has been charged with possession and dealing in a narcotic drug, possession of paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

As News 18 reported, police received a tip that drugs were being dealt out of a residence on the 500 block of Gordon Court in Claystone at the Crossing. When police searched the residence, they allegedly found two handguns, ammunition, heroin and marijuana.

Erica Snider was also arrested. According to court documents, at the jail Snider revealed she had synthetic marijuana hidden in a body cavity.

January 21, 2015: Greensburg Daily News

Prosecutor Patrick Harrington: Children trafficking victims need protection

Prosecutor Patrick Harrington: Children Trafficking Victims Need Protection

INDIANAPOLIS – Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick Harrington testified before the Indiana House Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs concerning House Bill 1216 that allows law enforcement agencies to notify the Department of Child Services when a juvenile is detained that is alleged to be a victim of human or sexual trafficking.

Prosecutor Harrington said that the I-65 corridor sees a large amount of juvenile trafficking. Police departments that arrest individuals for prostitution who they suspect are juveniles are unable to take protective action due to an inability to quickly establish a juvenile victim's true age and identity. By the time that is accomplished, the victims have often disappeared back to their previous life.

HB 1216 provides a defense to the crime of prostitution if the person was a child who was a victim or alleged victim of human or sexual trafficking at the time the person engaged in the prohibited conduct. The bill requires the law enforcement agency to immediately contact the Department of Child Services when an alleged victim of human or sexual trafficking is detained who is less than 18 years of age. The bill is sponsored by Representative Randy Truitt, Lafayette.

Juvenile trafficking victims, Harrington testified, are not inclined to cooperate with law enforcement. "Criminals tell these children, 'you have broken the law, you are criminals'. This bill will treat these children as victims and protect them, not prosecute them. They feel they have no way out, nowhere to turn."

Harrington said "we need to put these children in a safe house with professionals there to protect them and get them away from their pimps."

The bill passed the committee unanimously.

The Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council is a non-partisan, independent state judicial branch agency that supports Indiana's 91 prosecuting attorneys and their chief deputies. It is governed by a 10-member board of directors of elected prosecuting attorneys. The IPAC assists prosecuting attorneys in the preparation of manuals, legal research and training seminars. It serves as a liaison to local, state, and federal agencies, study commissions, and community groups in an effort to support law enforcement and promote the fair administration of justice.

January 21, 2015: WLFITV

New bill allows prosecutors to seek death penalty for murders on school property

By Holly Campbell

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – The maximum sentence Cousins could get was 65 years in prison for killing Andrew Boldt. But if a new bill is passed into law, someone who commits a similar crime could face the death penalty.

"Immediately after my sentencing on Cody Cousins, in that press conference, the first text message I got was from Sen. Hershman who said what can we do," Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington said.

That's when Harrington and Hershman got to work. Hershman crafted a bill that would allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty for murders committed on school grounds.

"The current law doesn't include in that definition of school property higher education, which is obviously in this case of Cody Cousins showed one of the weaknesses in the law," Harrington said.

A weakness Harrington said Cousins knew about.

"He knew what the penalty might be, and he accepted it before he committed this act," Harrington said. "You never know trying to hindsight what would have happened in a criminal's mind. But we can certainly go forward and make sure that if anyone else ever reviews our statutes, they are going to know that they are looking at life without parole or death for doing a similar act."

Harrington said other prosecutors across the state are behind the bill too.

"I've spoken to prosecutors mainly in the other counties that have higher education, and they are all in agreement that this is a law that we need to pass," Harrington said.

The bill may be heard as early as next week at the Statehouse.

Cousins was sentenced to 65 years behind bars in September and later took his own life in prison.

January 21, 2015: Purdue Exponent

County prosecutor reflects on a year without Andrew Boldt

By HALEY CHECKLEY Special Projects Editor

"I had to process a lot of information," said Pat Harrington, Tippecanoe County prosecutor on the murder of Purdue senior Andrew Boldt a year ago today.

Harrington worked feverishly on the case against Cody Cousins, the now convicted killer, and did what he could to shield his clients, the Boldt family, from the media.

"When you prepare for a hearing like that, what-what-what ..., " Harrington took a deep breath, collecting his thoughts.

Scrambled thoughts on the Cousins' case are common and expected.

Cousins, upon being detained, offered a plea of not guilty initially and maintained that plea until Aug. 21, when he admitted to the shooting and stabbing of Boldt and did not seek a plea agreement. Psychological testing continued throughout the case and upon the final hearing on Sept. 19, it was determined Cousins was not criminally insane, just mentally disturbed. He was taken to Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Ind., and six days later was discovered with lacerations on his wrists and neck, having ended his own life.

Harrington, having worked closely with all aspects of the case, said he drew upon old advice to get through it.

"I tell all my new attorneys, 'A good lawyer tries to prepare in advance. An excellent lawyer tries to figure out (the) worst case scenario all the way up to (the) best case scenario,'" Harrington said.

His eyes dulled at repeating the mantra but sparked up when he said the phrase "Cody Cousins" again, knowing inherently it would become a key story in his repertoire as county prosecutor.

Harrington leaned forward, folding his hands and pushing his weight onto his forearms on the desk in front of him.

“We had a significant amount of information about who he was from all the mental health records plus what he had said or done on his own. It was not a surprise to me as much as the media and public thought that he did what he did,” he said.

Cousins’ sanity, which had been a point of contention throughout the case in the media, was ultimately not up for debate, according to Harrington.

He looked down at his hands clasped before him, pronouncing every syllable of the next phrase with great precision and clarity.

“There are some people in the world who are just truly evil.”

He looked up again and an emotionless smile appeared. “We like to try to analyze every situation and try to figure out reasons for everybody. But Paris,” he said, referencing the terrorist situation flashed frame-for-frame across CNN playing on the TV in the lobby. “Truly you can’t rationalize that conduct.”

Judge Thomas Busch called Cousins’ actions an “act of terror.”

Still, though saying he is still amazed at the lack of appreciation for human life, Harrington contends the safety of Tippecanoe County.

“This is a safe area. Purdue is a safe area. Our schools in this community are safe areas,” Harrington pushed back a finger for every point. “Someone asked me once if this was the worst case I had ever seen and I go, ‘You can’t – there’s no such thing in my business. Everything is bad.’”

January 21, 2015: TCPSN

Andrew Tyler, 30, of Indianapolis, IN was charged with Perjury (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor’s office. This charge arose from a false statement Tyler made under oath during a hearing by denying having sexual intercourse with a woman seeking a protective order against him, when DNA results proved otherwise.

January 21, 2015: WLFITV

Team that reviews child deaths warns of ‘co-sleeping’

By Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) – A team tasked with reviewing child fatalities in Tippecanoe County wants to warn parents about the dangers of co-sleeping.

“Don’t sleep with your child or infant,” said Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington.

It might seem like simple advice, but it’s advice that can save lives.

“Two out three child deaths, or infant deaths, are due to co-sleeping and these are completely preventable,” said Harrington.

Harrington is responsible for establishing the Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team. The team reviews the unexpected deaths of children in the county, including homicides and accidents. There have been 12 such deaths since the team formed under Indiana law in July 2013.

Harrington said of the nine cases the team has reviewed so far, five were the result of co-sleeping.

“Sometimes a parent believes that it makes sense, but it doesn’t because the child suffocates. Either from the unintentional rolling over [or] a lot of people don’t understand the covers are dangerous, they’re deadly,” said Harrington.

While the team of law enforcement, health and legal officials can’t talk about specific cases, members can help educate the public. That’s what will happen at a forum set for next week.

“Sometimes there’s not a lot we can do there on the public awareness or education, but co-sleeping is the one that we can all try to emphasize and eliminate this type of childhood death,” said Harrington.

The forum will be held at the Tippecanoe County Office Building Tuesday at 9 a.m.

January 20, 2015: TCPSN

The Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT) presents findings of preventable child fatalities on February 27, 2015 at public meeting



For Immediate Release

From: Elizabeth A. Goodrich, *Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor*;
Chair, Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT)

Introduction of the TCLCFRT and presentation of preventable child fatality trends in Tippecanoe County to the public

The Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT)

On July 1, 2013, a new Indiana law (IC 16-49) went into effect, requiring child fatality review teams in each county, with coordination and support for these teams to be provided by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). Prior to this, the local child fatality review teams fell under the auspices of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS). The Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Patrick K. Harrington is responsible for establishing the team in Tippecanoe County.

The TCLCFRT review all deaths of children under the age of 18 that are sudden, unexpected or unexplained, all deaths that are assessed by DCS, all deaths that are determined to be the result of homicide, suicide, accident, or are ruled undetermined by a coroner.

The TCLCFRT classifies the details of these deaths, identify trends, and inform efforts to implement effective strategies designed to prevent injuries, disability, and death for our children. By working together to understand the circumstances involved in a child's death, we can make Indiana a healthier and safer place for our children.

The 12 TCLCFRT members include representatives from the following:

The Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office, County Coroner's Office, County Health Department, Department of Child Services, Lafayette Police Department, GLASS, IU Health Arnett, Tippecanoe Emergency Ambulance Services, West Lafayette Fire Department, Wabash Valley Alliance, St. Elizabeth Hospital, and a Forensic Pathologist.

TCLFRT Vision

Understanding the circumstances causing a child's death will help prevent other deaths, poor health outcomes, and injury or disability in other children.

Mission Statement

The Local Child Fatality Review Team will, through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary review of child fatalities, attempt to better understand how and why children die and use the team's findings to take action to help prevent future deaths and improve the health and safety of Indiana's children.

Goals

- ☐ Ensure the accurate identification and uniform, consistent reporting of the cause and manner of every child death
- ☐ Improve communication and linkages among local and state agencies and enhance coordination of efforts
- ☐ Improve agency responses in the investigation of child deaths
- ☐ Improve agency response to protect siblings and other children in the homes of deceased children
- ☐ Improve criminal investigations and the prosecution of child homicides
- ☐ Improve delivery of services to children, families, providers and community
- ☐ Identify significant risk factors and trends in child deaths
- ☐ Identify and advocate for needed changes in policy and practices and expanded efforts in child health and safety to prevent future child deaths
- ☐ Increase public awareness and advocacy for the issues that affect the health and safety of children



For Immediate Release

From: Elizabeth A. Goodrich, *Tippecanoe County Deputy Prosecutor*;
Chair, Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT)

**Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT)
Public Forum on Child Fatalities in Tippecanoe County**

The Tippecanoe County Local Child Fatality Review Team (TCLCFRT) will hold a forum open to the public to present emerging trends in child fatalities in Tippecanoe County, prevention strategies and provide community resources to the public.

Date: TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015

Time: 9:00am

Location: Tippecanoe County Office Building

Tippecanoe Room

20 North 3rd Street

Lafayette, IN

All members of the communities are invited to attend

Representatives from the TCLCFRT will be on hand to answer your questions. TCLCFRT members include the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office, County Coroner's Office, County Health Department, Department of Child Services, Lafayette Police Department, GLASS, IU Health Arnett, Tippecanoe Emergency Ambulance Services, West Lafayette Fire Department, Wabash Valley Alliance, St. Elizabeth Hospital, and a Forensic Pathologist.

TCLFRT will present critical data and dangerous trend identified from the review of child fatalities in Tippecanoe County, specifically on the safe sleeping practices for children.

Let's work together to protect our children and stop preventable child deaths in Tippecanoe County!

PLEASE JOIN US ON JANUARY 27, 2015

January 20, 2015: TCPSN

Luis Jesus Duran, 28, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with two (2) counts of Child Exploitation (C Fel), and three (3) counts of Possession of Child Pornography (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

January 16, 2015: TCPSN

Ashley Brooke Ket, 34, of Seymour, IN was sentenced today to 4 years for her guilty pleas to Forgery (C Fel), and two counts of Theft (D Fel). Sentence breakdown: 3 years IDOC, 1 year Probation, Defendant to get mental health treatment.

January 15, 2015: WLFITV

Drug-related charges land man a 50-year sentence



TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Richmond man is sentenced to 50 years after he is found guilty on five drug-related charges.

Carl Bosby, 29, will serve 40 years in the Indiana Department of Corrections, along with five years in Tippecanoe County Community Corrections and five years on probation, for various felony charges including two counts of dealing cocaine and one count of conspiracy to deal a look alike substance.

As News 18 reported in May of last year, Bosby sold cocaine to an undercover officer twice at the Village Pantry on Union Street. The following month, prosecutors say Bosby arranged for a different person to sell the officer heroin, but police said the substance was not heroin.

Bosby was also found guilty of being a habitual offender.

January 15, 2015: TCPSN

Alex Eugene Waters, 52, of West Lafayette, IN, was charged today with Possession of a Narcotic Drug – Heroin, Within 1,000 ft of Tippecanoe County Amphitheatre (B Fel), Possession of a Syringe (D Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and Maintaining a Common Nuisance (D Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

January 15, 2015: WLFITV

Man accused of assisting in murder makes initial court appearance

By Krista Henery

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — The man police say assisted another man in a Christmas Eve murder in Tippecanoe County appeared in front of a judge for the first time Thursday.

Juan Alberto Imul Pop, 26, was recently extradited back to Tippecanoe County after being held in an Ohio jail. He's accused of assisting 42-year-old William Alexander Paz in the murder of 26-year-old Primitivo Flores of Lafayette. Flores' body was found on U.S. 52 Christmas Day.

Pop faces three charges — assisting a criminal, obstruction of justice and failure to report a body. A not guilty plea was entered Thursday in court.

As News 18 has already reported, Paz has been charged with murder and has also pleaded not guilty.

According to court documents, Pop says he saw Paz stab Flores on Christmas Eve. Police said the three men worked together at Teppanyaki Grill.

Pop told the judge Thursday he is not a U.S. citizen. If he's convicted, he could face deportation back to Mexico.

A jury trial has been set for May 6.

January 15, 2015: TCPSN

Carl Rene Bosby, of Chicago, IL has been sentenced to 50 years after a Tippecanoe County jury found him guilty of Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), Possession of Cocaine (B Fel), Dealing in Cocaine (A Fel), Possession of Cocaine (B Fel), and Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Look Alike Substance (C Fel) and the court found him to be a Habitual Offender. Sentence breakdown: 40 years IDOC, 5 years TCCC at LTBD, 5 years Probation (3 yrs supervised, 2 yrs unsupervised), IDOC Programs: CLIFF Program.

January 15, 2015: WLFITV

Father charged after child found in freezing temps without coat

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — A Lafayette man has been charged with neglect of a dependent after his 4-year-old child is found wandering alone in the 13 degree weather.

According to court documents, the child was in the care of 27-year-old Milton Mallett Jr. while the child's mother was at work.

Police were dispatched to the 1300 block of Columbia Street in Lafayette where they found the child wandering around pajamas without a coat and covered in snow. Documents state the child was looking for Mallett Jr.

Police were able to locate Mallett Jr. coming out of a neighboring home 37 minutes after being dispatched to the area. Mallett told police he left the child alone for 15 minutes to go to a friend's house.

January 15, 2015: WLFITV

2nd suspect in Christmas homicide extradited

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Juan Alberto Imul Pop is back in Tippecanoe County after local authorities tracked him down in Ohio and had him arrested in connection with the Christmas morning homicide that left the body of a Lafayette restaurant worker half-dressed and stabbed to death in the 3300 block of U.S. 52.

Pop, also known as Ricardo Perez, had been awaiting extradition since his arrest Jan. 3 in Richland County, Ohio, where authorities say he secured a new job and residence after fleeing Lafayette in fear after witnessing one of his Teppanyaki Grill & Supreme Buffet co-workers kill another.

He was booked Wednesday afternoon in Tippecanoe County Jail, formally charged with assisting a criminal who committed murder, obstruction of justice and failure to report a dead body. A not guilty plea was entered Wednesday on his behalf.

During an initial hearing Thursday morning in Tippecanoe Superior Court 1, Judge Randy Williams agreed to assign Pop a public defender.

Pop, through the assistance of a translator, indicated that he had no bank accounts and no assets he could sell in order to afford a lawyer. He told Williams he had no cash at the time of his arrest.

Pop's trial date has been set for May 6. Because he is not a U.S. citizen, Williams told him, the court proceedings could result in his deportation.

Court documents indicate that Pop is 24 years old, contradicting previous reports based on a press release from Lafayette police identifying him as 26.

Detectives linked Pop to the crime scene because he reportedly appears in a cellphone video of two men arm wrestling about 2:15 a.m. Dec. 25, according to court documents.

He's accused of attempting to clean up the bloody apartment where 42-year-old William Alexander Paz allegedly stabbed homicide victim 26-year-old Primitivo Flores.

Contributing: Mikel Livingston/mlivingston@jconline.com

January 15, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Father charged with neglect of his child

Ron Wilkins, rwilkins@jconline.com

Milton E. Mallett Jr. was supposed to be watching his 4-year-old child Tuesday afternoon, but he wasn't, according to prosecutors, who charged Mallett with neglect of a dependent, a Level 6 felony.

The child wandered out of the house in the 1300 block of Columbia Street, and police found the child about 5 p.m. at 14th and South streets wearing thin pajamas and shoes with no socks. It was 13 degrees outside — 1 degree with the wind chill, according to Lafayette police.

Police found the child's house and called his mother, who was at work. She told police that Mallett was watching the child.

About 30 minutes after finding the child, police found Mallett leaving a house two blocks away from his home. Police said Mallett told them he'd been gone only for 15 minutes.

January 15, 2015: TCPSN

Milton E. Mallett, Jr, 27, of Lafayette, IN has been charged today with Neglect of a Dependent (Level 6 Fel) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

January 14, 2015: WLFITV

Lafayette man charged in VP armed robbery

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — A Lafayette man has been charged in connection with an armed robbery at a Village Pantry in Lafayette.

Jonathan Washington, 19, faces charges of armed robbery and theft. The robbery happened on Saturday morning at the Village Pantry on Schuyler Avenue.

Police said Washington walked in, pulled out a gun and demanded cash. He was unable to get any cash because the cashier locked himself out of the register. Washington became impatient and left with a carton of cigarettes.

A Purdue police officer stopped Washington's car in the 400 block of North River Road. Items relating to the robbery were found inside the car.

January 14, 2015: TCPSN

Jakob D. Robinson, 37, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with five (5) counts of Child Seduction (Level 5 Fel), by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

January 14, 2015: TCPSN

Mark Allen Landes, 44, of Lafayette, IN was charged today with Dealing in Methamphetamine (Level 5 Fel), Illegal Drug Lab (Level 6 Fel), Possession of Methamphetamine (Level 6 Fel), Possession of Paraphernalia (A Misd), and Possession of a Synthetic Drug or Synthetic Drug Lookalike Substance (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

January 14, 2015: WLFITV

Formal charges filed on McCutcheon HS teacher

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Charges are officially filed against a McCutcheon High School teacher accused of having a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old student.

Thirty-seven-year-old Jakob Robinson, who works at McCutcheon as a Physical Education teacher and football coach, showed little emotion as he heard the charges he faces for the first time Wednesday morning in court. Robinson faces five felony counts of child seduction. A preliminary plea of not guilty was entered at the initial hearing.

According to Tippecanoe County prosecutors, the sexual relationship began in October of 2014. However, they first met when the student was a freshman in his gym class.

Court documents state that Robinson would take the student to his parent's house where he was living. Documents also said they would chat on FaceTime before school in the mornings.

According to documents in December 2014, they once left school grounds in the middle of the day to have sex during finals week before returning back to school.

Documents state another incident occurring in January 2015 where the student snuck out of a friend's house where she was staying overnight. Robinson allegedly picked her up and drove her to his parent's house where they had sex, later returning her to the friend's residence.

Investigators said gifts were also given to the student.

Robinson has been employed by TSC since 2006. He was arrested Friday, Jan. 9 and was placed on paid administrative leave pending the investigation.

The probable cause affidavit does not reveal how the relationship was discovered by investigators.

Robinson's trial has been set for May 19. A no contact order was issued against Robinson meaning he can not have any contact with the victim or witnesses not named in court. The advisory sentence for Level 5 felony is one to six years in prison and a possible fine of up to \$10,000.

News 18's Holly Campbell was in the courtroom and will have an update coming up on News 18 at Five and Six.

January 13, 2015: TCPSN

Corey Eugene Mattingly, 36, of Lafayette, IN has been sentenced to 8 years IDOC for his guilty pleas to Failure to Register with Prior Unrelated Conviction (Level 5 Fel) and Habitual Offender Sentence Enhancement in Tippecanoe County, IN.

January 12, 2015: TCPSN

The Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office has requested a 72-hour continuance of the initial hearing for Jakob D. Robinson, the MuCutcheon HS teacher who was arrested for Child Seduction on Friday.

January 9, 2015: WLFITV

Meth Dealer Gets 14 Years in Prison



LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLF) – A Lafayette man who was cooking meth inside a home when officers arrived is sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Robert McKendrie, 48, pleaded guilty to dealing meth and being a habitual substance offender in connection with an incident last April.

Tippecanoe County prosecutors tell News 18 police went to a house at 3854 Daisy Drive just off Creasy Lane where they found an active meth lab and about five grams of meth.

McKendrie pleaded guilty in November and was sentenced Friday to 14 years in prison, two years of community corrections and two years of probation.

January, 9, 2015: TCPSN

Robert Charles McKendrie, 48, of Lafayette, IN was sentenced today in Tippecanoe County to 18 years for his guilty pleas to Dealing in Methamphetamine (B Fel) and Habitual Substance Offender. Sentence breakdown: 14 years IDOC, 2 years TCCC; 2 years Supervised Probation; Programs: Defendant is recommended to the CLIFF program and for a mental health evaluation while in the DOC. Defendant is recommended to Home with Hope while on his community corrections sentence. Special terms: Defendant is to complete a substance evaluation as a term of probation.

January 9, 2015: WLFITV

Convicted burglar gets extra prison time for breaking inmate's jaw



TIPPECANOE CO., Ind. (WLF) – A man who was recently sentenced to 13 years in prison for a burglary conviction gets an extra six years for punching another inmate and breaking his jaw.

Jevon Ollins, 24, was sentenced in November for a burglary near West Point in 2012.

But while he was awaiting trial, Tippecanoe County prosecutors say Ollins hit another inmate in June and fractured his jaw.

Ollins pleaded guilty to a felony charge of battery resulting in serious injury and was sentenced Thursday to four years in prison and two years of probation, which is consecutive to his 13-year sentence.

Bookkeeper who stole from Purdue gets jail time



Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Victoria Bradford was sentenced to seven years this week for stealing more than \$15,000 from two previous employers: Purdue University and Better Merchants Inc.

The 52-year-old bookkeeper pleaded guilty to felony charges stemming from 27 fraudulent checks she cashed between August 2011 and March 2014, but she testified during her sentencing hearing Wednesday that she hadn't told her current employer about the allegations, let alone her guilt.

Bradford had been an account clerk in the university's Department of Nutrition Science, where she arranged for payments to participants in egg and almond research.

Over the course of the 2011-2012 academic year, Bradford had 20 payments issued to her checking account under names of individuals who purportedly participated in the studies. She stole \$6,400 that way, siphoning \$350 to \$500 at a time, using names of people who didn't actually take part in the research.

Even after being arrested for that offense, Bradford stole from her next employer, Better Merchants, where she began working as business manager in February 2013.

She took \$8,650 from Better Merchants between July 2013 and March 2014.

Bradford was arrested March 18. When she left jail on bond two days later, she cashed yet another check, for \$130, according to a sentencing summary from the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office.

Bradford was ordered to execute two years of her sentence with the Indiana Department of Correction, followed by two years with Tippecanoe County Community Corrections, then three years on probation.

January, 8, 2015: TCPSN

Jevon D. Ollins, 24, of Chicago, IL has been sentenced to 6 years for his guilty plea to Battery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury (C Fel). This case arose from an incident which occurred in the Tippecanoe County Jail. Sentence breakdown: 4 years IDOC, 2 years probation (1 year supervised and 1 year unsupervised).

January 7, 2015: WLFITV

Harrington selected as member of Governor's Council

By Alexandra Kruczek

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFITV) — The Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office announced Pat Harrington was accepted as a member of the Governor's Council on Impaired Driving.

Prosecutor Harrington was invited to the council and accepted the position to a committee that helps reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Governor's Council on Impaired Driving is an advisory committee to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

"It is an honor to be invited to the Governor's Council on Impaired Driving," Harrington told News 18 in a release. "I am eager to provide any input that will make our roads safer, and look forward to the challenges that this Council is tasked with addressing, and resolving."

Council members provide input and advice on the use of traffic safety funds. Officials said that money is used for grants, training, coordination, and ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates

January, 7, 2015: TCPSN

Keith Rich, 29, of Munster, IN was sentenced to 24 years IDOC today for his guilty pleas to Arson (B Fel), Burglary (B Fel) and Habitual Offender, Tippecanoe County, IN

January, 5, 2015: TCPSN

William A. Paz, 42, has been formally charged today with Murder and Obstruction of Justice (Level 6 Fel), in the Christmas Day Murder of John Doe in Lafayette, IN by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.

January 5, 2015: WLFITV

Two men charged in Christmas Day Death case

By Brittany Tyner

TIPPECANOE COUNTY, Ind. (WLFI) — Both of the two men arrested for the Christmas Day death investigation have been charged, and one of those men faces a murder charge.

William Paz, 42, has been charged with obstruction of justice and murder. If convicted on the murder charge, Paz faces 45 to 65 years in prison.

According to court documents filed Monday, the police investigation began with a Greyhound bus ticket that was on a body discovered along Sagamore Parkway on the morning of Dec. 25.

Police said the victim, who has yet to be identified, was spotted leaving the bus station in a Teppenyaki restaurant van.

Prosecutors said restaurant management pointed police to Paz, who was living with the victim. Paz told police he and the victim, along with several other employees, were drinking together at an apartment at Emerald Pines on Christmas Eve.

Police spotted blood on Paz's shoes and later found blood on Paz's front door, and in his living room and vehicle.

A video on Paz's phone led police to 26-year-old Juan Alberto Imul Pop, who said he saw Paz kill the victim with a knife.

Imul Pop was also charged Monday with assisting a criminal, obstruction of justice and failure to report a dead body. He is currently being held in Mansfield, Ohio and may be extradited to Lafayette.

Prosecutors said Imul Pop is illegally living in the United States and also uses the name Ricardo Perez.

Monday in court, Paz said he is not a U.S. citizen.

A plea of not guilty was entered. A jury trial is set for May 6.

Paz is being held without a bond.

January 5, 2015: Lafayette Journal and Courier

Suspect rearrested in Christmas homicide

Steven Porter, sporter@jconline.com

Sheepishly acknowledging the formal charges brought against him Monday, William Alexander Paz shook his head side to side and buried his face in his hands, the gray hair on his temples framing a furrowed brow.

The 42-year-old restaurant employee, who's accused of killing a co-worker in his apartment Christmas morning then dumping the half-dressed body along Sagamore Parkway, was charged with murder.

Paz had been drinking Christmas Eve with fellow Teppanyaki Grill & Supreme Buffet employees, including the unidentified victim, according to court documents. An autopsy revealed homicide as the cause of death, but Tippecanoe County Coroner Donna Avolt said authorities still lack a positive identification.

Juan Alberto Imul Pop, 26, also was present at the get-together. He appears in a cellphone video of two men arm-wrestling in Paz's apartment at about 2:15 a.m. Dec. 25, according to a probable cause affidavit.

Pop, who's also known as Ricardo Perez, was arrested Saturday in Mansfield, Ohio, where he'd just secured a job with a shared apartment provided by his employer, court documents state.

He walked off the job at Teppanyaki mid-shift the day of the homicide because he became scared when his boss began asking where Paz had gone, the affidavit states.

Pop initially denied having any knowledge of the killing, but after police noted a red smudge on his suitcase, he admitted that it was probably the victim's blood and that he saw Paz stab the man to death with a knife.

Paz then wrapped the man's body in blankets and put it in his SUV, Pop reportedly told Lafayette police detectives who traveled to Ohio to interview him.

Pop faces felony charges in Tippecanoe County for allegedly obstructing justice and assisting a criminal by cleaning up the bloody apartment. He also faces a misdemeanor charge for failure to report a dead body.

He's being held at Richland County (Ohio) Jail as court staff make arrangements for a Spanish translator to facilitate an extradition hearing, according to Maj. Joe Masi.

Paz has been in Tippecanoe County Jail since Dec. 27, when he was booked on preliminary charges that included assisting with a crime involving murder.

Tippecanoe County Prosecutor Pat Harrington secured a 72-hour extension giving him until Friday afternoon to file formal charges, but he elected not to do so. Consequently, authorities could not hold Paz any longer on the preliminary charges, but he remained in custody due to immigration issues, awaiting pickup by federal officials.

Harrington said there was never any risk to the public since the immigration hold kept Paz in jail.

"We were aware of this at the time of making the decision on Friday," he wrote in an email.

The case still was under investigation Friday as Lafayette police quickly tracked Pop down, Harrington noted.

Paz was then rearrested Saturday on a new preliminary charge of murder. If convicted, he faces 45 to 65 years in prison.

Authorities were able to identify the three men as Teppanyaki co-workers and roommates with the help of restaurant manager Rich Yang, who declined to comment.

Pop and Paz each admitted to authorities that they don't have legal permission to live and work in the U.S.

January, 5, 2015: TCPSN

Juan Albert Imul Pop AKA Ricardo Perez, 24, was formally charged today by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office with Assisting a Criminal (Level 5 Fel), Obstruction of Justice (Level 6 Fel), and Failure to Report a Dead Body (A Misd) in the Christmas Day Murder of John Doe in Lafayette, IN.

January, 2, 2015: TCPSN

Marlon Laron Bethel, 44, of Gary, IN has been charged with Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon (Level 4 Fel), Carrying a Handgun While Having a Prior Felony Conviction (Level 5 Fel), and Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misd) by the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's office.